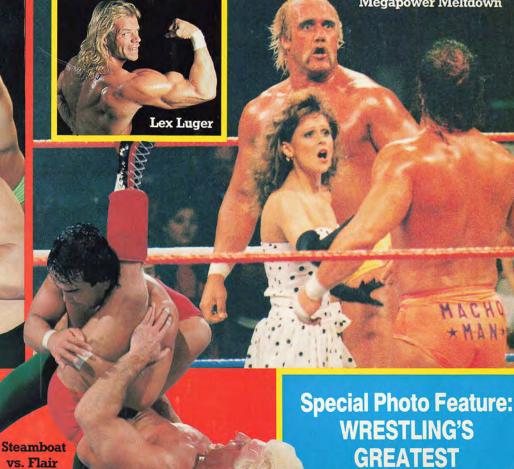




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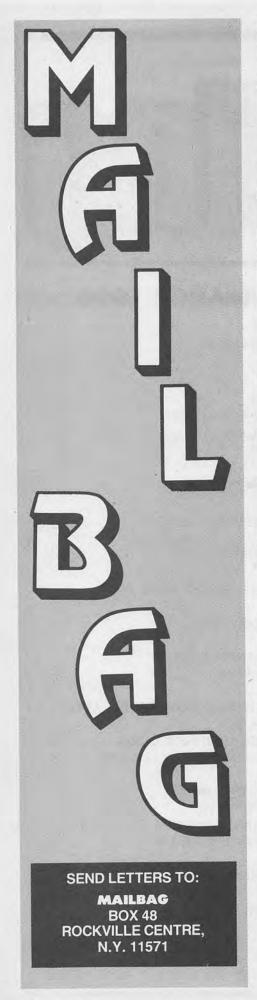
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Happy Humphrey was one of the largest wrestlers of all time. Reader Hugh Polk admires Humphrey and others like him because they used their great size effectively.

FAT BOYS

I almost lost my lunch when I saw the fat slobs "gracing" your "Turkey Stuffing Section" in the January 1990 issue ("The Fattest Wrestlers Of Our Generation!").

As a man who works out at least five times a week and keeps his calorie count down to 1,100 a day—thanks to a steady diet of greens and yogurts—it makes me sick to see these obese, lazy pigs not lift a finger and still make a living in a sport that supposedly stresses physical fitness.

One thing you didn't mention in this section: How many of these fat men died at a young age? It must be a scary statistic.

KARL MONROE Foxboro, MA Thanks for paying tribute to those special overweight men in the January issue. These people really represent all that is great about wrestling: ability and mental fitness overcoming a physically superior opponent. These men overcame their handicaps and used it to their advantage. People may laugh at them, but I admire them all. After all, I, too, never saw a Thanksgiving dinner I didn't like.

HUGH POLK Seattle

I took special interest in your "Turkey Stuffing Section" because I was one of the men shown trying to hold off one of these incredible individuals. More to the point, I was shown lying on the mat while Chris Taylor stuffed his foot into my abdomen.

As one who knows, let me say that these men are not to be made fun of. Although I respect men who keep themselves in top physical condition, and have tried to do the same myself, these overweight men have something to offer to the game. They're tough competitors and extremely dangerous not only because of their size, but because of the way they use their size.

Excuse the pun, but fat wrestlers are not to be taken lightly.

NICK BOCKWINKEL Minneapolis



Woman's plan to destroy the Steiners will ultimately backfire, writes reader Cliff Jacobs.

WOMAN'S MEEK ROAR

By the time your January issue hit the newsstand, Woman was already falling on her face ("Woman's Plan To Rule The NWA: 'Destroying Steiner Was The Easy Part!' "). Even though Woman now has the huge Nitron on her side, the Steiners are still dominating Doom and making her look foolish. Maybe she had the edge on Rick and Scott outside the ring, but inside the squared circle it's a different story.

Give up, Woman, and go back where you belong!

CLIFF JACOBS Wilmington, DE

ANOTHER AWA FIASCO

I was at the AWA World tag team tournament, and let me just say that the article in your January issue was absolutely correct ("AWA Title Controversy—Again! We Demand A New Tag Team Tournament!"). The match got totally out of hand, and, at the very least, The Destruction Crew should have been disqualified. Instead, they were given the belts, which is typi-

cal of the AWA these days.

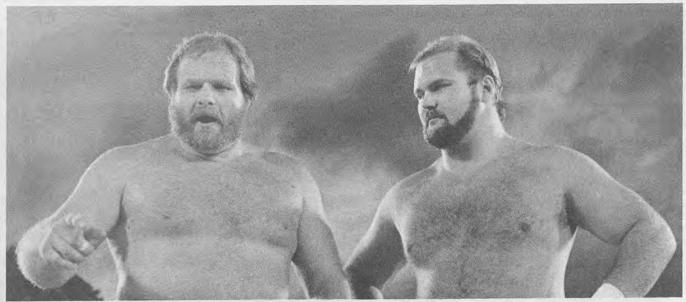
I can't count how many times in recent years something disgraceful has happened to an AWA title. Right now, both champions—Larry Zbyszko and The Destruction Crew—won their belts in a disgraceful manner. When is the AWA going to get its act together?

JASON DUBOIS Rochester, MN (Continued on page 54)



Johnny Valiant holds Greg Gagne while Mike Enos leaps on his back. Reader Jason Dubois says this kind of interference reflects badly on the AWA.

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GEOFFREY YORK Toronto, Ontario DAYTON, OH: Ole and Arn Anderson hadn't spoken to each other in nearly two years, but a common bond recently brought them back together: Ric Flair. On December 5 here, Ole and Arn combined to defeat The State Patrol, then came back a few hours later to beat former NWA World tag team champs Michael Hayes and Jim Garvin.

"It's great to be back with Arn!" Ole said afterward. "Family shouldn't fight, and now we're back together again."

"I always thought Ole and I had a chemistry, and that's why the breakup was so tough in the first place," Arn admitted. "But things have changed now, and we're ready for a new era."

(Continued on page 68)

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STRAIGHT talk with EDDIE ELLNER

Dateline: Southern California.

This trip west was for mostly personal reasons: the overdue marriage of two college accomplices, Hackett and Elena; hellos and homage to infamous New Age producer/director RW; and, most rewarding for me, a weekend stay at the Lund Brothers' seaside palace.

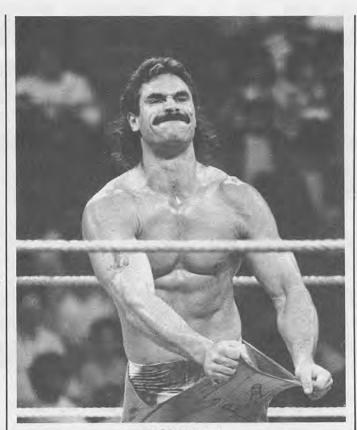
Ex-college roommate

Scott Lund remains model-handsome, though he is now accompanied by a disconcerting bulge around the waist that screams "30!" His brother Johnny is the real prize; at 6'3", 230 pounds, the 24-year-old construction worker had begun training for the



BRIAN PILLMAN

ring. Cut from the Brian
Pillman/Lex Luger mold,
Johnny possessed the
look, the strength, and the



RICK RUDE

potential, but sorely lacked the work ethic vital for real success. He trained on a diet of beer and burritos.

"I'm the next Rick Rude." he'd boast after a set of 100 one-handed push-ups. "I got the moves inside and outside the ring." I told him of the years of sweat and sacrifice it took for Rick Rude to become Rick Rude. "I watched Rude train as a rookie," I cautioned. "He was in bed by 10 every night and never once looked sideways at a girl. You must earn attitude. Attitude requires commitment."

I knew Johnny would never make it. His type were a buck a bushel. As I watched him race toward the beach, his dropkick practice a casualty of some unexpected eightfoot swells, I wondered if a distinction could be made between Californiaand New York-type wrestlers. Was there such a thing as a laid-back grappler? A column theme thus established, let us now get on to some "Straight Talk."

Don't attribute those boos to the "fact" that Jerry Lawler decided suddenly to embrace rulebreaking. It's that it took



JERRY LAWLER

the none-too-bright Mem phis ("C'mon over and see my new black-velvet Elvis") fans this long to catch on to Lawler's true conniving and self-centered nature.

Too Good To Be True Department: **Stan Hansen** is back in Japan after an all-too-brief stint in the States. Stan the Man and



STAN HANSEN

partner Genichiro
Tenryu voluntarily vacated their PWF tag team belts the day before the start of the PWF tag team tournament. "Whoever wins the tournament deserves the belts," Hansen explained. "Hell, we'll just win 'em back any-



KENDALL WINDHAM way." For those fans unable to recognize it, bigbellied, beer-swillin' Hansen is the embodiment of pure class.

Kendall Windham is a California wrestler; Bret Hart is 100 percent New York.



BRET HART

"Red Rooster" Terry
Taylor (unquestionably
California poultry) was
crushed by Rick Rude in
a recent New York
match, affirming his decline to preliminary
bumpkin.

Was I dreaming, or did



TERRY TAYLOR

Taylor once really defeat Nikita Koloff?

Ric Flair, Sting, Eddie Gilbert, Jim Cornette, Brutus Beefcake, and Ted DiBiase are California; Arn Anderson, the Steiners, Roddy Piper, and Buzz Sawyer are New York.

Got a letter from "Dirty" Dick Daniels of WMET, a radio station (1150 AM) broadcasting from Gaithersburg, Maryland. Seems Dirty Dick thinks I belong on "Inside The Squared Circle," WMET's Tuesday-night wrestling show. Washington D.C. native/nutritionist Janis Jibrin describes Gaithersburg as a "sterile, mall-infested, former redneck breeding ground." If you can armatch-it's a plant-andflower-based scalp revitalizer that's transformed Bill Apter's head into a lush garden of curly locks and sent this month's follicle count tote board into orbit. Were it not for the permanent bags under Apter's beady insect eyes, our senior photographer/household slave would look 10 years younger. Let's see if his head can support all this new weight.

When it comes to grappling, **Ted Turner** is uncharacteristically Californian; **Vince McMahon** is a New York thoroughbred.

Interviewed recently on a Dallas radio station, Kerry Von Erich waxed eloquent about Japanese



KERRY VON ERICH

range a conference call from New York, Dirty Dick, then maybe I'm interested. Sounds like the good people of Gaithersburg need some educating.

Billy Jack Haynes is California-nice; Randy Savage is pure, hellish New York.

Aroma therapy is not what sweaty wrestlers need after a long

wrestling saying, in effect, that it's easy money because the Japanese just kick and scream a little and, if you hit them once, you can knock them down.

One Wish Department: Kerry bumps into **Shohei Baba** in a dark Tokyo alley.

Before their dismal performance in the **Survivor Series**, I was fully prepared to admit **Demolition** was superior to **The Road Warriors**. Unless there's title money on the line, these guys are impossible to figure.



THE ROAD WARRIORS

By the way, Curt
Hennig's elimination of
Jimmy Snuka convinced
many he's for real. His
name will still change,
though, to "Mr. Almost
Perfect" after balding
myth-killer Hulk Hogan
disposes of him.

To all you would-be Rick Rudes and Johnny Lunds out there: The reason the Rocky and Karate Kid movies gross kazillions of dollars is that everyone loves a success story. In the cozy confines of a movie house, anything is possible. To make it really happen requires dedication, determination, and unrelenting desire.

Till next month, and the winners of the "Revenge!" contest.

[Editor's note: The views of this magazine's editorial staff and the views of Eddie Ellner are about as compatible as oil and water, which don't mix very well, either, and ought not to be confused with one another.]

LOCKEB.ROOM with Bill Apter

That is, I thought he was my friend—up until about two days ago. That's what makes his recent change of attitude so difficult to comprehend.

"Who's side are you on, Apter?"
Lawler barked into the telephone receiver.

Sides? Who was talking about sides? I reminded Lawler that I'm a professional journalist and, while my deepest respect has always been for the wrestlers that follow the rules and protect the integrity of the game, my job is to be impartial and consider all sides of a situation.

"Journalistic double-talk, buddy. Try again," Lawler responded.

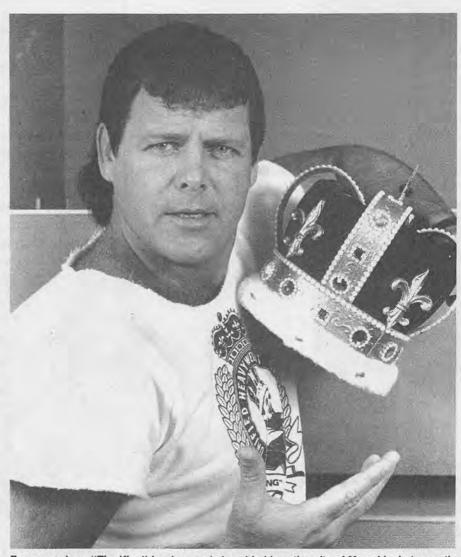
I reminded Lawler that he was always one of the wrestlers who followed the rules and protected the integrity of the game. Then, a while back, he started playing with the rules down in Texas. That earned him plenty of enemies, but only in the World Class/USWA area. Now, suddenly and quite remarkably, things have changed in Memphis, too.

Boo! shouted the fans in Memphis' Mid-South Coliseum when Lawler made his way from the dressing room to the ring for a match against Bill Dundee. I was watching this match on videotape and couldn't believe my ears.

"It's not my fault," Lawler protested, "these fans gotta root for who they want, and there's nothing I can do about it."

"Jerry, let me call you back in a minute," I said. It was, indeed, possible that I had reached the wrong number and was talking to a Lawler imposter. But that was not the case.

"Yeah, whaddya want, Apter? Come on, you're wasting my time,"



For years, Jerry "The King" Lawler was beloved in his native city of Memphis, but recently fans there have been disappointed by his actions. Lawler says he's not worried about his dip in popularity.

roared the unmistakable voice of Jerry "The King." "You want explanations, I'll give you explanations. [Dutch] Mantel interfered in my matches. He claimed that he was doing me a favor, but he caused me to lose some pretty important decisions. How do you think these fans would like it if The Soultaker was champion right now? Well, that's what almost happened, and it would've been Mantel's fault."

"You're getting booed by your own people," I pointed out.

"And Ronald Reagan's popularity once dropped below 50 percent. And Elvis Presley put out a few clinkers. Look, Apter, even the Dallas Cowboys can't buy a win anymore," Lawler said. "Everybody goes through their ups and downs. They don't cheer me anymore? Big deal! Cut me some

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he Inquiring

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Control

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and opinions. Each and have the fans month, we'll ask a controversial question

answer-no matter what those answers might be!

and have the fans

THE OUESTION:

"Should wrestlers be suspended for striking female managers or valets?"

THE ANSWERS:

Bob Erichsen, Perry, OK: "Absolutely not. Any woman who's dumb enough to stick her nose in a ring where burly male wrestlers are competing is just getting what she's asking for. In the case of 'Scary' Sherri, anything a guy does to her is proper. She's every bit as rough as the men are!"



Adrian Street and his valet, Miss Linda, have teamed in mixed tag matches.



Hulk Hogan grabs Sherri Martel before she has a chance to interfere. In several cases, Hogan has gone so far as to hit Martel. Many people are shocked that Hogan would actually hit a woman, even one as nefarious as Sherri.

Genevieve Kunath, New York: "Any male wrestler who's a big enough coward to hit a female should be run out of the sport on a rail. Imagine a 300pound wrestling champion like Hulk Hogan beating up 150-pound Sherri Martel! Nothing she could do to him justifies that kind of action. I hope the federations get tough and start to sanction strict punishment to any bully who hits a woman. Case closed."

Bill Kneisser, Atlanta: "There are two distinct sides to this question. On the one hand, you've got a woman like Sylvia, who constantly interferes with her kendo stick. But there was also the case of Miss Linda, Adrian Street's valet. She had her left arm broken when she was brutalized by Beauty and the Beast. Believe me, I'd love to see Sylvia get hers, but it's a really a question (Continued on page 64)

GO FIRST CLASS!

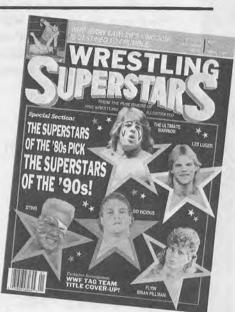
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TOPWRESTLE TOWNQUESTION

Do you have a question you want answered by 10 of wrestling's top stars? Each month, Sports Review

Wrestling will publish a fan's "Question of the Month," which will be answered by the sport's top superstars. If you have a question you would like to see answered, send it to:

ASK THE STARS
Sports Review Wrestling
Box 48
Rockville Centre, NY 11571

THE "QUESTION OF THE MONTH" IS:

"How important is it to know how to brawl?"

Submitted by: Mary Ann Hollingsworth Asotin, WA



BILLY TRAVIS

"This is an area where I've really improved. For years, I relied strictly on scientific tactics, just like that wimp Jeff Jarrett does. Lost a lot more than I should have, too. Now, I get in there and really mix it up, and suddenly I'm the hottest star in the USWA. To be a big cheese in the wrestling game today, you gotta know how to get down and dirty—and that's what I do."



PAUL DIAMOND

"Let's face it. This is a rough sport. Anybody who wants to survive had better know how to use his fists to defend himself. But it takes a lot more than just being a brawler to succeed. I've wrestled as both a fan favorite and as a rulebreaker, and I know that you need to be able to blend science, strategy, and fighting in order to keep your opponents off-guard. Works for me."



ROAD WARRIOR HAWK

"You're talking to one of the men who made brawling an art form, so what are you expecting me to say? This sport is survival of the fittest. The Legion of Doom's motto has always been 'kick butt first, ask questions later.' And that's exactly what we do. Not only do we do nothing but brawl, but we're proud as punch of the fact that there are no dweebs who can outfight us."



BILL DUNDEE

"I've always said that at 5'7", I had better know how to scrap. But that isn't all I know how to do. Personally, when my opponent starts to get a little too involved with fighting, I pull a scientific move out of my back pocket to steal a victory. It works the other way, too. Sometimes, the only way to get out a bearhug or leglock is to slug your way out. I play it my ear, mate."

RSANSWER OF THE MONTH



TOMMY JAMMER

"I think brawling is overrated, personally. Everybody knows how to fight, but how many men know how to deliver a dropkick from the top rope or execute a gutwrench suplex? That's what sets wrestling apart from all other combat sports. Unless you weigh more than 300 pounds, you've got to know your true wrestling skills. That's what I've concentrated on. and that's why I've been a success."



DAN SPIVEY

"To hell with science! I went that route before, and all it got me was a couple of knee operations after people beat on me. Now, I'm the guy who does all the beating, and it feels real good. Add a partner like Sid Vicious, and there ain't many who can top us. And you know what? We don't use any science at all! That should teach people that brutality is the name of the game."



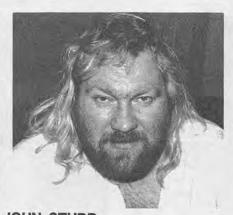
CHRIS CHAMPION

"I'm not going to tell people that I'm a sweetheart of a guy. But I will say that knowing how to hold your own in a brawl is one of the first things that every young wrestler should realize. It's great to know leglocks, armtwists, and all that other stuff, but it don't mean much when you've got a vicious 300-pounder like The Soultaker coming at you with hatred in his eyes."



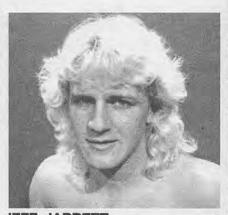
OWEN HART

"Men who constantly rely on brawling aren't real wrestlers, as far as I'm concerned. Not many men who just use their fists make it to be world champions. Hulk Hogan's an exception, but the remainder of the great champions-Ric Flair, Harley Race, Larry Zbyszko-are well-rounded wrestlers who know the ins and outs of not all the time."



JOHN STUDD

"One of the first things I learned when I was training to become a pro is not to listen to a lot of the supposed experts out there. I was taught to get in there and kick some tail, and after all my years in the sport, I haven't changed my style one bit. I'm too big for scientific wrestlers to do much with, anyhow. Leave the science the game. Sometimes you must fight, but to the little guys. Just give me a good, hard fight."



JEFF JARRETT

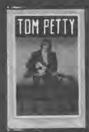
"I try not to use my fists unless I'm provoked. But I must admit that having a good amateur boxing background should make it easier for wrestlers. I haven't been blessed by such teachings, but those who have seem to get a head start. Let me put it this way. I don't much care for the direction that wrestling is heading in with all the violence, but now I know that I have to brawl."



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G5A/8F

G4Z/EM

From time to time, the editors of this magazine find it necessary to condemn those in wrestling who would subvert the basic principles of decency, integrity, and honesty. Without such truths, our sport will die

IG VAN VADER is mad. Really Dmad. He says there's something strange afoot, and he doesn't like it one bit.

"There's a conspiracy against me in my own country," he yells. "American promoters won't let me wrestle in the U.S.! Can you believe that? I'm being shut out completely! I don't know what their problem is, but when I find out the reasons behind this, a lot of people are gonna be sorry!"

Vader, whom some readers may know better as Leon White, is a champion on three continents. Vader holds the IWGP title in Japan, which he won on August 10, 1989, from Riki Choshu; on November 12 in Mexico City, Vader won the Universal Wrestling Association belt from El Canek; and he journeved to Vienna in June (as "Bull Power" Leon White) and won the "Catch Wrestling Austria" championship from former AWA World champion Otto Wanz.

This impressive string of victories proves Vader is a top-quality athlete. At 6'5" and a solid 375 pounds, this former NFL competitor has fought and defeated some of the best grapplers worldwide. He has come a long way from his rookie days in the AWA. Now it's time for him to face the best the U.S. has to offer, right?

Big Van Vader dropkicks Hashimoto. Vader has won titles on three continents, but he hasn't won anything in the U.S. He wants to wrestle here, but some promoters don't want him and, it seems, have blackballed Vader from stateside competition.

nymity. "He's good, maybe too good. He comes in here and wins a belt-I'd Japan. I'm not interested."

Another promoter puts Vader in a Catch-22 situation: "Vader, or White, or whatever he's calling himself these days, still hasn't proven himself to my satisfaction. Winning overseas means nothing to me. Let him beat some worthy American competition, and then I'll talk to him."

"If they're afraid of me," Vader said, "they have every right to be. But

Wrong, as far as some American they have no right to keep me out of promoters are concerned. "Frankly, their leagues. The bias is unreal. All the guy scares me," said one promoter I'm asking for is a chance, nothing who spoke on the condition of ano- more or less. I don't demand or deserve any special treatment."

Vader's number-one target in the bet anything he takes it to Europe or U.S. is Sgt. Slaughter. He has even gone so far as to suggest that Slaughter himself is behind the plot to bar his entry into the U.S. wrestling ranks.

"Slaughter, that self-styled all-American hero, is really the all-American wimp!" Vader accused. "He's supposed to be so tough, but they tell me his knees start to shake and his voice starts to quiver whenever anybody mentions my name. I can't blame him.

(Continued on page 62)

WRESTLING DEOS



#1 GREAT AMERICAN BASH '88

The Price For Freedom

Controversy reigned supreme during the annual summer Bash tour as Ric Flair and Lex Luger went at it in Baltimore. Also: Rhodes vs. Windham for U.S. title; triple-cage 'Tower of Doom'' featuring Russian Assassin I, Ivan Koloff, Perez, Rotundo, & Sullivan vs. Road Warriors, Garvins, & Williams; Fantastics vs. Midnights: Blanchard & Anderson vs. Nikita Koloff & Sting.

\$39.95/126 Min./Turner Home Entertainment

#2 GREAT AMERICAN BASH '89

The Glory Days

Revenge was the theme of the 1989 Bash as NWA champ Ric Flair came back from a broken neck to wrestle former champ Terry Funk, and U.S. champ Lex Luger battled Rick Steamboat. Also: Sting vs. Muta: War Games: a battle of wits turns to a battle of fists as Paul E. Dangerously rumbles with Jim Cornette: plus much

39.95/120 Min./Turner Home Entertainment

#3 WRESTLE WAR '89

Music City Showdown

Ric Flair's courageous effort in regaining the NWA belt from Rick Steamboat on May 7, 1989, in Nashville was voted Match of the Yearsome called it the Match of the Decade! Also on this memorable card, Lex Luger battles Michael Hayes; Road Warriors clash with Mike Rotundo & Steve Williams; and

\$39.95/125 Min./Tumer Home Entertainment



STARRCADE '87 Chi-Town Heat

The hottest Thanksgiving Day in Windy City history! CAGE MATCH THRILLERS: Ric Flair challenges NWA champ Ronnie Garvin:

Dusty Rhodes takes on U.S. champ Lex Luger, PLUS: Road Warriors vs. Blanchard & Anderson; Koloff vs. Taylor; Rock 'n' Rolls vs. Midnights on a scaffold: Williams vs. Windham: Garvin. Hayes, & Sting vs. Gilbert, Zbyszko. & Steiner.

\$39.95/126 Min./Tumer Home Entertainment

#8 STARRCADE '86 The Sky-Walkers

So big it had to be held in two locations-The Omni in Atlanta and the Greensboro Coliseum in North Carolina. Highlights include: NWA champ Ric Flair vs. Nikita Koloff; Road Warriors vs. Midnights on a scaffold; "First Blood" match—Rhodes vs. Blan-chard; Ron Garvin vs. Big (Bossman) Bubba; Rock 'n' Rolls vs. Andersons in cage; Jones vs. Valiant-hair vs. hair.

\$39.95/90 Min./Turner Home Entertainment

#9 STARRCADE '88 True Gritt

The sixth annual Starrcade event. the first under the Ted Turner banner, thrilled a sellout crowd at The Scope in Virginia. Featured: Lex Luger's challenge of Ric Flair; Road Warriors vs. Sting & Rhodes; Windham vs. Bigelow; Rotundo vs. Rick Steiner: Midnights vs. Midnights: and more. \$39.95/125 Min./Turner Home Entertainment

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#4 GOLDEN AGE OF WRESTLING Volume 2

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RESTLER OF THE MONTH

RICK & SCOTT STEINER

THERE ARE MANY in the wrestling world who insist that Rick Steiner is, well, a little bit on the slow side. "Slow?" asks Steiner incredulously. "Hey, I'm as fast as anybody I know. I'll challenge you to a footrace

anytime, pal."

It's comments like those that only bolster some people's perceptions of Rick's mental prowess. But after a year like 1989, no one could question his skills as a grappler. During this past year, he held the NWA TV title and won the U.S. tag team title with Eddie Gilbert. Through it all, however, something still seemed to be missing.

Meanwhile, Rick's younger brother, Scott, was blossoming into a star in Memphis. He won the CWA tag team title with Jed Grundy on February 18, but he, too,

knew that something was not right.

"Jed was a real good partner," recalled Scott recently. "But ever since I became a pro, I realized that my main goal was to form a tag team with my big brother. After all, we were both all-Americans at the University of Michigan. I knew I just wouldn't ever be happy apart from that guy."

So it was on February 20 in Chicago—just two days after he had won the CWA tag team title—that Scott made his first-ever NWA appearance, standing at ringside for his brother's TV title match against Mike Rotundo at Chi-Town Rumble '89. Rick lost the title that night, and to this day Scott blames himself for that defeat.

"Rick had no idea that I was going to be there," said Scott. "Suddenly, he was a man without a belt. I really believe that my presence was the reason why Ricky became confused. After the match, I swore to Rick that I'd make it up to him. When Jed and I lost the CWA title, I immediately packed my bags and headed for the NWA. I knew I was going home."

After that, Rick and Scott formed an amazingly effective duo. Both used their mastery of suplexes and slams to score victories over veteran teams. And from that point on, experts predicted they could become NWA World

champions someday.

Someday has arrived. Rick and Scott defeated Jim Garvin and Michael Hayes to win the NWA World tag team title on November 1 at the Center Stage Theater in Atlanta. Not only did they end The Freebirds' five-month title reign, but they overcame a period of serious personal anguish involving Woman and her tag team of Doom.

"Rick was head-over-heels in love with that Robin Gr—er, I mean Woman," said Scott bitterly. "He was going to marry that slimeball, but they used his proposal as an excuse to attack me. Those burns nearly took my

left eye home with them. We insisted that, when Doom made their debuts, we get the first match against them. Our hard feelings were not about to go unavenged."

Unfortunately for the Steiners, Woman had other plans. When the teams met during a featured match at "Halloween Havoc '89" on October 28 in Philadelphia, Doom captured a disputed victory over the Steiners when Woman placed a foreign object into the mask of Doom I. The masked man then delivered a crushing headbutt to Rick Steiner, knocking him out and making him an easy pinfall victim.

On that same card, Hayes and Garvin scored a surprisingly decisive victory over The Dynamic Dudes. Drunk with power, Hayes issued a challenge to every team in the NWA. "We've got an open slot at the next TV taping four days from now," he yelled. "We want some *real* competition. We'll take on anybody—and we'll put these belts on the line, too. There isn't anybody me and the 'Gorgeous' one can't beat right now."

When NWA promoters got wind of Hayes' comments, they assigned the Steiners to that match. Instead of wallowing over their problems with Woman and Doom, the Steiners came out for the bout with fire in their hearts.

"We just decided to go for it," said a jubilant Rick after the match. "Forget about the Woman stuff. Forget about those masked morons, too. Me and Scotty wanted to be champions in the worst way. We owed it to each other."

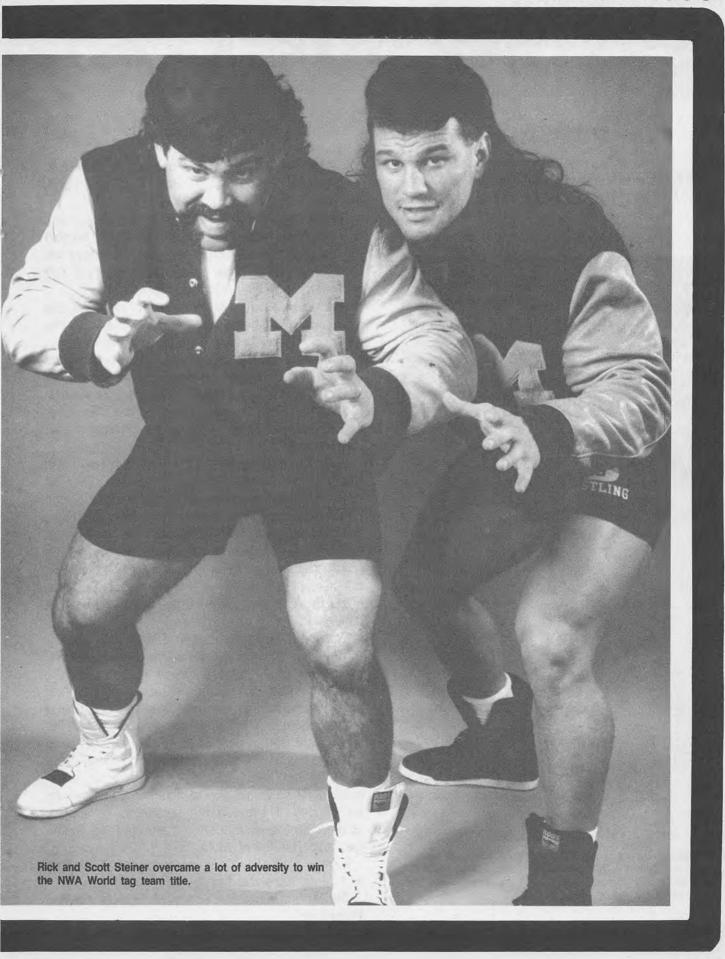
The Steiners were brilliant throughout the match, as Scott caught Garvin with his amazing "Frankensteiner" suplex and Rick smashed both Freebirds with an array of vertical suplexes. But the real reason the Steiners won was brain power. In fact, it would be *Rick* who would outsmart The Freebirds! He had Hayes in a pinning position when Garvin climbed the turnbuckle to leap on him. But Rick moved out of the way, Garvin accidentally pounced on Hayes, and Rick covered "P.S." for an easy pin.

"Man, it was the greatest moment of our lives," said Scott. "Not only did we win the NWA World tag title, but we proved to ourselves that we were a great team. This is something that nobody can ever take away from us."

No one can take away the Steiners' new status as superstars, either. They've even captured several victories over Doom in hotly contested rematches.

And no one is calling Rick "slow" anymore. Instead, they're calling him a champion.

And we're calling the Steiners our "Wrestlers of the Month."



POINT/GOUNTERPOINT

POINT:

TERRY FUNK SHOULD REMAIN AN ACTIVE COMPETITOR



Despite coming out on the short end in his feud with Ric Flair, Funk, piledriving the NWA champion, should continue to wrestle because he has scores to settle with Gary Hart and The Great Muta, writes Bill Apter.

By Bill Apter

F ONE MAN in this sport has proven that it is possible to overcome all odds, it is Terry Funk, the tough Texan who just won't quit.

Several years ago, it appeared as though Funk was ready to retire for good. At the time, he told me he was serious about pursuing an acting career. "Wrestling's been great," he said, "but I've got other, more important things to do."

But when Funk was at ringside to judge the incredible Ric Flair-Rick Steamboat NWA title match at WrestleWar '89, he caught the wrestling bug again. Seeing two tremendous competitors battling in the ring, he became convinced he was still championship material. Several matches in Florida had kept him in shape for the ring wars, and he was ready to make his move back to full-time competition.

I was among the first to condemn the way Funk returned. His brutal, unfair attack on Flair at WrestleWar was way out of line, as was the plastic bag incident at Clash of the Champions VIII. But I also understood his frustrations. He envisioned one final shot at glory and he didn't want to let the moment slip away. Funk has held that NWA World championship before. He knows what it feels like to be the champion. He wanted to recapture that feeling.

The long, bloody feud with Flair was a classic. All the way through Clash of the Champions IX, these two gutsy men engaged in some of the most memorable battles in the sport's history. Yes, Funk has some injuries, but his strong accounting of himself during the feud proves to me that the injuries are not so serious as to be career-ending.

Funk has done some announcing lately, and word is that he's seriously contemplating retirement again. I would like to think he's just resting his injuries. There are still battles to be fought, against his former manager, Gary Hart, for example, and The Great Muta.

I know Terry Funk; he is too proud to let Hart and Muta have the last word.

Bill Apter is senior editor of Sports Review Wrestling

There are two sides to every story, and nowhere is that more true than in professional wrestling. Each month, two of the world's most respected mat journalists will debate an important issue concerning the sport, facing off for an exchange of ideas, leaving the final decision up to you!

COUNTERPOINT:

TERRY FUNK SHOULD RETIRE FROM THE RING



Funk is too banged up to be an effective wrestler, and his recently concluded feud with Flair proves it, writes Andy Rodriguez. He believes that Funk would be better off as an announcer, or even a movie actor.

By Andy Rodriguez

WHAT WILL IT take to convince Terry Funk that it's time to hang up the tights for good? Funk has had a long and storied career. Dory Funk Sr., Dory Jr., and Terry comprise one of the sport's most successful families. Terry has won a score of championships including, of course, the NWA World title he captured from Jack Brisco in 1975. Funk has every reason to be proud of his accomplishments.

The truth is, Funk should have stay retired after he left the WWF in 1986. At that time, he had already appeared in several movies and TV shows. He has a knack for acting possessed by few pro athletes who've ever ventured to Hollywood. A career in front of the camera was not farfetched.

When NWA officials asked him to be a ringside judge for the Flair-Steamboat title bout at WrestleWar '89, they didn't expect him to stick his nose in the action. Funk knew exactly what he was doing when he attacked Flair. Some have argued he was acting purely on emotion. In my opinion, his was a cold, calculated act designed to thrust him back into the wrestling limelight.

In his subsequent feud with Flair, Funk not only lost match after match, he was dominated. His only wins came through the interference of manager Gary Hart. Funk was a beaten man from the start; nothing changed that fact after months of intense battles. Flair's submission victory at Clash IX was the *coup de grace* of Funk's ill-advised comeback.

Recently, Funk has been announcing rather than competing, and that's good. His years of experience give him a keen insight into the game. As he decides whether or not to retire, he would do well to listen to his body talk. His spirit may be willing, but the beatings he has absorbed make any further comeback attempts not only foolish, but downright dangerous.

Andy Rodriguez is associate editor of Sports Review Wrestling

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WRESTLING'S GREATEST MANAGERS EVER!

THEY ARE THE MEN that guide their wrestlers to greatness. They schedule matches, work out strategies, and determine travel arrangements.

They are wrestling's managers. Love them or hate them, the best ones are usually able to make champions.

"I think every wrestler should have a manager," said Capt. Lou (Continued on page 60)

THE 20 GREATEST MANAGERS OF ALL TIME

- 1-CAPT, LOU ALBANO
- 2-ARNOLD SKAALAND
- 3-BOBBY HEENAN
- 4-THE GRAND WIZARD
- 5-J.J. DILLON
- 6—BOBBY DAVIS
- 7—FRED BLASSIE
- 8-GARY HART
- 9—JIMMY HART
- 10-PAUL ELLERING

- 11-SIR OLIVER HUMPERDINK
- 12-GEN. SKANDOR AKBAR
- 13—JIM CORNETTE
- 14-ELIZABETH
- 15-"WILD" RED BERRY
- 16-PAUL JONES
- 17-GEORGE CANNON
- 18-JOHNNY VALIANT
- 19-MR. FUJI
- 20-TONY ANGELO



Managed 12 different duos to 16 WWF World tag team championships, a feat that will probably never be matched . . . Also managed Ivan Koloff (pictured here) to an upset victory over Bruno Sammartino for the WWF World title in 1971 . . . Managed Greg Valentine to the Intercontinental title in 1984, shortly before he became a fan favorite for the first time in his career . . . A mediocre grappler during his career, his unpredictability made him dangerous as a manager . . . Still the standard by which all leaders are measured.



The finest scientific manager of them all . . . Managed Bruno Sammartino (left) during his two WWF World title reigns, and led Bob Backlund (right) to the same honor in 1978 . . . Also advised Eddie Gilbert and Rick McGraw for short times during the '80s . . . A strict disciplinarian, but also a master strategist . . . An expert in sports medicine . . . Was forced to throw in the towel when Backlund lost the WWF World title by submission to The Iron Sheik in 1983 . . . Known as the "Golden Boy" during his grappling career.

Led Nick Bockwinkel (pictured) to three of his four AWA World titles ... Known as either "The Brain" or "The Weasel," depending on your opinion of him ... 1989 was one of the best years of his career, and his first successful one since entering the WWF in 1984 ... Led Rick Rude to the Intercontintental title and Tully Blanchard and Arn Anderson to the WWF World tag team title ... Convinced Andre the Giant to become a rulebreaker, which led to his classic match against Hulk Hogan at WrestleMania III in 1987.

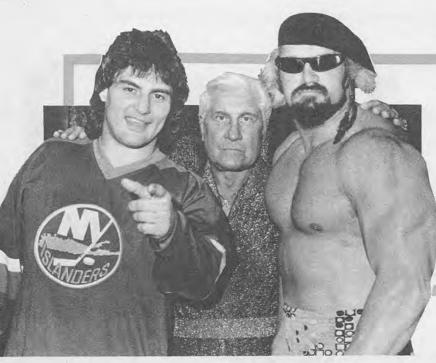
Responsible for some of the greatest upsets in WWF history . . . Led Superstar Graham (pictured) to the WWF World title over Bruno Sammartino in 1977 . . . Managed Stan Stasiak to the WWF World title over Pedro Morales in 1973; although Stasiak only held the belt for nine days, it established "The Wiz" as a wrestling genius . . . Had a split personality. As Abdullah Farouk, managed the infamous Sheik to the U.S. title in the '70s . . . Also managed Prof. Tanaka and Mr. Fuji to the WWF World tag title, and Don Muraco to two Intercontinental belts.

Arguably the greatest manager of the '80s...Dominated the NWA with his rulebreaking organization, The Four Horsemen (pictured), from 1986 to 1988...Led Ric Flair to two of his six NWA World titles... Also managed Tully Blanchard and Arn Anderson to the NWA World tag team title in 1987 and 1988...Aided Barry Windham and Lex Luger U.S. titles in 1987 and 1988 respectively...A former wrestler, Dillon was more than willing to get physically involved in his men's bouts... Currently an advisor in the WWF.

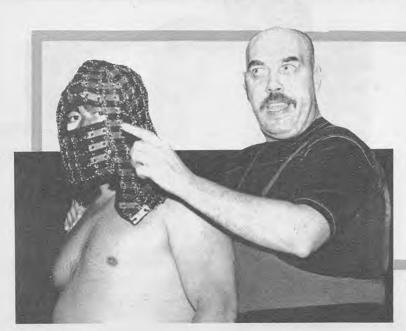




Set the standard for rulebreaking managers in the '50s and '60s . . . Managed Buddy Rogers during the ''Nature Boy's'' tenure as NWA World champion . . . Although he was usually attired in a tuxedo, Davis wasn't afraid to interfere in Rogers' matches . . . Also managed Rogers and Bob Orton Sr. as a tag team (pictured), as well as Magnificent Maurice and Johnny Barend for a short time . . . Equally as cocky as his wrestlers . . . Believed that the mind was more important than the body in training wrestlers.



One of the most feared wrestlers in history, the "California Fashion Plate" became a manager in the early '70s... Responsible for one of the greatest upsets of all time when The Iron Sheik defeated Bob Backlund in 1983... Taught his men to be every bit as vicious and brutal as he was... Scored another big victory when his team of Mr. Fuji and Prof. Tanaka won the WWF World tag team title in 1977... Also managed the team of Adrian Adonis and Jesse Ventura (pictured), Nikolai Volkoff, and other rulebreakers.



One of the most intense managerial minds in history . . . A former wrestler as "Playboy" Gary Hart, he's responsible for some of the greatest feuds in history . . . Holds the distinction of managing a father and son; formerly managed The Great Kabuki (pictured), and now manages The Great Muta, the current NWA TV champion . . . Currently manages The J-Tex Corporation . . . Led Chris Adams to the World Class title in 1985 . . . Don Kernodle and Bob Orton won the NWA World tag team title under his guidance in 1984.

Although he only weighs about 120 pounds, Hart is one of the most dangerous managers in the sport . . . Managed virtually every rulebreaker to pass through the Mid-Southern region during the mid-'80s . . . Has had massive success in the WWF . . . Somehow managed The Honky Tonk Man (for whom Hart is interfering here in a match against Brutus Beefcake) to superstar status, as the Elvis lookalike held the Intercontinental title from June 1987 to August 1988, the longest reign in history . . . Also led Bret Hart and Jim Neidhart to the WWF World tag team title in 1987.

A former world-class weightlifter and bodybuilder, "Precious" Paul has established himself as one of the shrewdest managers in history . . . Has only managed one team-The Road Warriors (shown here)—during the past seven years, but he's kept them established as the finest duo in the sport . . . Original Legion of Doom also included singles grapplers Matt Borne, Jake Roberts, Arn Anderson, and Iron Sheik . . . Led Animal and Hawk to the AWA World tag team title in 1984 and to the NWA World belts in 1988 . . . Still dons the tights for six-man bouts.

"Sir Oliver" has fluctuated between being a fan favorite and a rulebreaker, but he's always been one of the sport's most dangerous men... Constantly interfering in his men's bouts... Formed the original Hollywood Blonds, Jerry Brown and Buddy Roberts, in the late '60s... Infamous for his wars against Dusty Rhodes (pictured) and other favorites in the Florida area... Managed Big Steel Man to the PWF title in 1989... Currently manages The Samoan Swat Team and The Samoan Savage in the NWA.







If he never does anything else, this Arabian madman will forever be remembered for dominating World Class/USWA in 1988 and 1989 . . . Managed One Man Gang to the UWF title in 1986 and led Big Bubba Rogers to the same honor in 1987 . . . Has called his rulebreaking organization Devastation Inc. for several years now . . . Almost gained total control of the USWA in 1989, but P.Y. Chu-Hi lost a match to Eric Embry to end the threat . . . A former wrestler, frequently gets involved in his men's matches (as here, against Iceman Parsons).

Using his rich mother's money, the "Louisville Slugger" worked his way up to becoming one of the top young managers in the sport today ... Has had incredible success with his tag team of The Midnight Express . . . The current version, Stan Lane and Bobby Eaton, were the only team to hold both the NWA World tag team title and the U.S. version; this happened in 1988 . . . Eaton and Dennis Condrey (pictured, being aided by Cornette against The Fantastics) won the World Class tag team title in 1985, and the NWA World title in 1986.



The only female manager to make the list . . . Her incredible beauty conceals her outstanding managerial acumen . . . Led Randy Savage (pictured here) to the WWF World title with his tournament victory at WrestleMania IV in 1988 . . . Later was blamed as being the cause of the Hulk Hogan-Randy Savage war, but in reality it was Savage's ego that caused all the problems . . . Currently still manages Hogan, and has also been seen recently in an advisory capacity for Hacksaw Duggan.

The first manager to use a cane to distract referees and club opponents over the head . . . Devious and brutal, his men rarely got disqualified even after the most flagrant rules infractions . . . Best known for managing The Fabulous Kangaroos, Al Costello and Roy Heffernan (pictured) . . . Under his guidance, the Kangaroos won a host of regional titles, including the U.S. title in 1960 . . . Raised the ire of the fans with his flippant comments about scientific wrestlers during interviews.

Jones was once a respected scientific wrestler and a former U.S. champion, but you'd never know it from his violent actions as a manager . . . Perhaps best known for getting his proteges involved in feuds, most notably when The Powers of Pain attacked The Road Warriors in 1988 . . . Managed Rick Rude and Manny Fernandez to the NWA World tag team title in 1986 . . . Has also managed Abdullah the Butcher (pictured), Pez Whatley, The Powers of Pain, and The Russian Assassins, among others.

Long famous for the slogan he wore on his back, "Cannon-I Am Right" . . . One of the greatest tag team managers of all time . . . Led The Mongols to the IWA tag team championship in 1985 . . . Also managed Al Costello and Don Kent, a latter day version of the Kangaroos . . . One of the largest managers ever, as well as one of the most sadistic . . . Also managed Eric the Red and the team of Kurt Von Hess and Karl Von Shotz . . . Banned from many independent federations for actions such as this one against Nelson Royal.





The "Luscious" one was part of a legendary tag team with his brother, Jimmy, and now he imparts that knowledge on to other duos . . . Scored one of the biggest upsets of the '80s when Brutus Beefcake and Greg Valentine won the WWF World tag team title from Barry Windham and Mike Rotundo in 1985 . . . Duplicated that feat by leading Wayne Bloom and Mike Enos to the AWA World tag team title in 1989 . . . Has also managed Dino Bravo, Doug Somers, and Demolition . . . Loves to see his men get brutal, as Enos does here against Brad Rheingans.

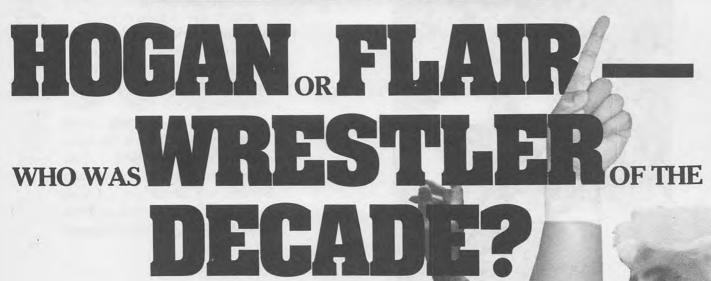


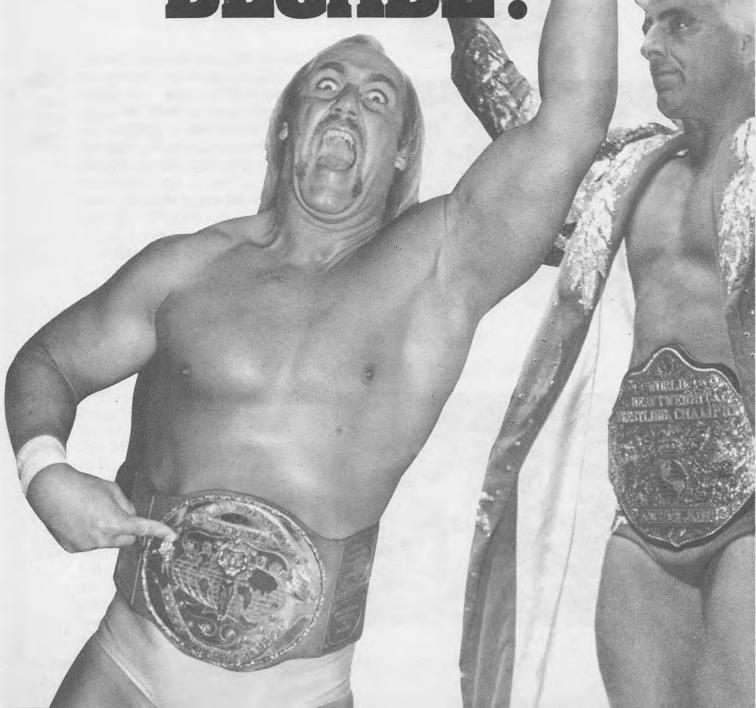
Perennially underrated, this Oriental sadist has been a top manager in the WWF for years . . . Managed Demolition to the WWF World tag team title in 1988 . . . Split from the team not long after, and replaced them with the even more brutal Powers of Pain . . . Uses his cane to gain the advantage often, as shown here . . . Held the WWF World tag team title five times during his wrestling career (three times with Prof. Tanaka; twice with Mr. Saito) . . . Uses Japanese mind-control techniques.



Long known for his financial expertise, Angelo pulled off the biggest managerial trade of 1970... Gave The Mongols and Ivan Koloff to Lou Albano for Crusher Verdu and an undisclosed sum of cash... Koloff soon won the WWF World title from Bruno Sammartino, but the transaction made Angelo a rich man... Led the original Mongols to the International tag team title... Not above using his lit cigar to burn opponents... A master at distracting referees... Still one of the most hated men in history.

The Great Debate:





A huge controversy erupted when our sister magazine *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* named Ric Flair Wrestler of the Decade. Hulk Hogan fans were appalled by the choice and quickly made their feelings known. Watch the sparks fly as wrestlers, fans, and journalists verbally slug it out over the question of which man *really* dominated the 1980s

WHEN WE DECIDED to do this story, we quickly realized that it would be nearly impossible to quickly gather together a panel of experts to debate the question: Who was the one wrestler who embodied the 1980s? But modern technology is wonderful: We were able to arrange a conference call to bring all the parties together for a talk.

Wrestlers in on the discussion were Harley Race, the seven-time former NWA World champion, and John Studd, a longtime WWF title contender who now wrestles on the independent circuit. Ten subscribers to Sports Review Wrestling were called at random and invited to participate; six agreed to do so. On our end, everyone but Associate Editor Eddie Ellner was involved. ("Such debates," he said, "are a damnable waste of time. My choice would have been Stan Hansen, anyway.")

It would take an entire issue of this magazine to chronicle the entire four-hour debate. The following are the highlights of the discussion:

Gregory Johnson of Norman, Oklahoma, immediately put the editors on the defensive. "How in the world could you have chosen Flair?" he asked. "Hulk Hogan was wrestling in the '80s. If it hadn't been for Hogan, wrestling would still be in the dark ages."

"Hogan is a great athlete," Senior Editor Bill Apter replied. "I don't think anyone could deny that his accomplishments were great. But in Flair, we're talking about an outstanding pure wrestler, a six-time World champion. You fans voted him *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* Wrestler of the Year an incredible five times. I was proud to support Flair for the award."

"If I'd had my say," Race added, "I'd have chosen Flair, too. After all, the man did beat me for the title. I've fought both Flair and Hogan many times, but here's the important distinction: I met Hogan much later in my career. If I'd fought Hogan in my prime, I'd have beaten him easily."

"Hogan has taken a lot of criticism that he hasn't wrestled as frequently or fought as tough a group of opponents as Flair, but that's not true anymore," said Dolores Knox of Cherry Hill, New Jersey. "Randy Savage, Big Bossman, Curt Hennig; Hogan's faced and defeated the best."

"That's a good point," said Associate Editor Andy Rodriguez. "Hogan used to take a lot of flak for only defending the belt once a week. Now he's wrestling almost every night."

"Hey, even when he wasn't wrestling every night, he was one tough hombre," said Studd. "I thought I was unbeatable when I met Hogan for the WWF belt back in '84, and he knocked me on my butt. I still think I can beat him, but you can't deny he's been a great champion."

"I admire Flair because of his tenacity," said Royce Newman of White Bear Lake, Minnesota. "Be-

(Continued on page 70)

19 - 89

The Year In Pictures

There will never be a year like 1989. Legends cemented their standing in the sport and young stars burst upon the scene.

Trends were set and others continued. We laughed and suffered, cheered and booed, and held our breath as the world's greatest athletes thrilled us once again!

S THE FINAL days of the decade wound down, Ric Flair wore the NWA World championship belt and Hulk Hogan wore the WWF World championship belt. It seemed appropriate that the men who dominated our memories of the decade brought that decade to a close in championship style.

It was the kind of year in which loose ends were tied up in neat, small packages, the sport got geared up for the coming decade, and trends that had started years earlier took another step toward becoming an accepted part of the sport. 1989 was a great year.

Hulk Hogan, overcoming odds like he never had before, resisted the pain of Randy Savage's flying elbow and regained the WWF title at WrestleMania V. Two months earlier, the Megapower alliance came to a bloody and violent conclusion. By the end of that February evening, we were where we had been four years earlier. Hogan on one side, Savage on the other, the World title between them.

Rick Steamboat, too, overcame the odds. He burst out of retirement and won the NWA World title—his first—from Ric Flair, igniting a thrilling feud that presented us with more than a few Match of the Year candidates. The feud ended with the belt back around Flair's waist for the sixth time, Steamboat's hand clenched in Flair's in a show of respect and sportsmanship, and Terry Funk displaying exactly how bitter a man without a title can be.

The AWA overcame odds, too: odds of survival. Jerry Lawler was stripped of the World title, sending the federation into turmoil. President Stanley Blackburn retired and Joe Blanchard took over: more turmoil. Larry Zbyszko won the World title-in a battle royaland Ken Patera and Brad Rheingans couldn't defend the World tag belts for nearly two months. Turmoil again. The Destruction Crew won the title amid controversy. The turmoil has just beaun.

In Texas, Eric Embry's war against Gen. Skandor Akbar's army made him the most popular wrestler in the state, displacing even the mighty Von Erichs. When Embry defeated P.Y. Chu-Hi, the federation was saved from Akbar's control; it then came under the ownership of Max An-

drews and the USWA, and a nation of fans breathed easier.

And there was so much more. Hogan appeared in the WWF's first feature film, No Holds Barred. The NWA enjoyed its first full year under Ted Turner's ownership. Brian Pillman, The Great Muta, The Skyscrapers, and Woman's team of Doom burst upon the NWA scene. The AWA introduced the first Team Challenge Series. Dusty Rhodes signed with the WWF. Tully Blanchard and Arn Anderson left the WWF. Pay-per-view TV wrestling events flourished; there were 10 in all.

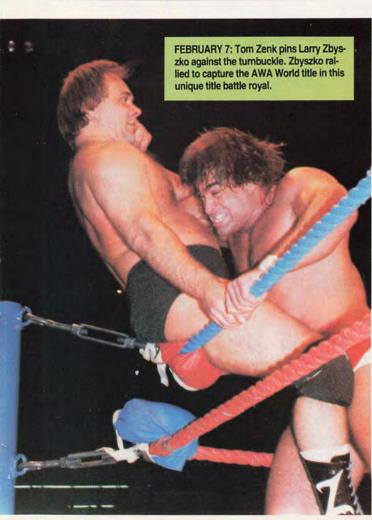
There was tragedy, too. Two of wrestling's genuine legends, Mildred Burke and Paul Boesch, passed away. The wrestling world suffered along with Nikita Koloff as he watched his wife Mandy die of Hodgkin's Disease.

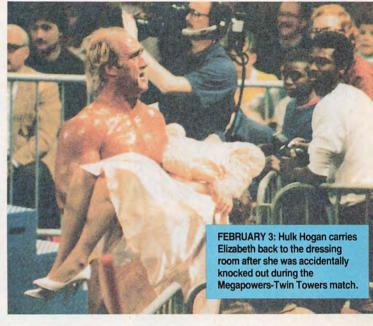
The events of 1989 will undoubtedly have repercussions on the sport for many years to come. Review the next eight pages of full color photos and remember that you are looking at a time capsule of the past that gives us hints to the future.

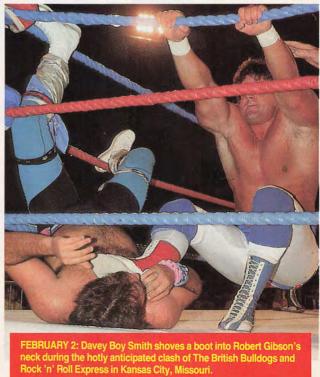
You can be sure Hogan and Flair will be there, too.



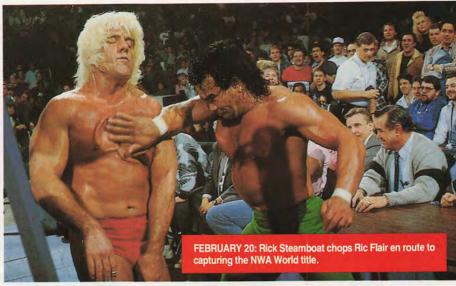
















APRIL 7: Wendell Cooley backs Tom Prichard into the turnbuckle on his way to winning the Continental championship.

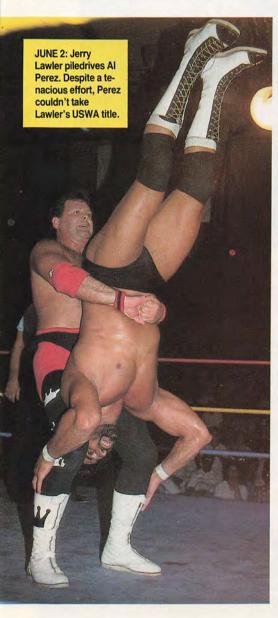




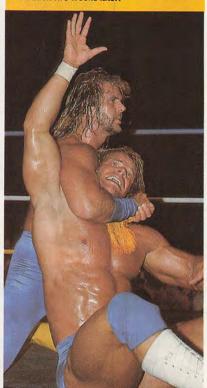
MAY 7: Terry Funk administers a severe beating to Ric Flair after Flair's World title victory over Rick Steamboat at WrestleWar '89 in Nashville.

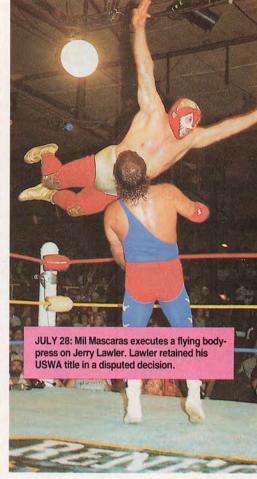


MAY 5: Terry Funk and Dusty Rhodes had a bloody battle at the FCW's "Homecoming II." Rhodes won by disqualification.



MAY 7: Michael Hayes chinlocks Lex Luger. Hayes won the U.S. belt, but lost it back two weeks later.





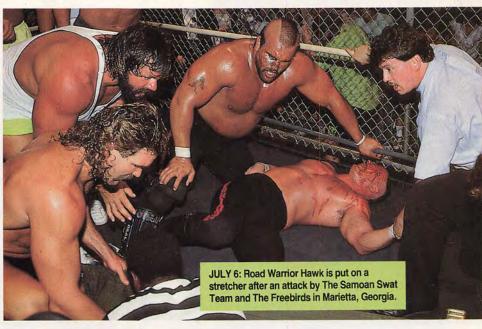


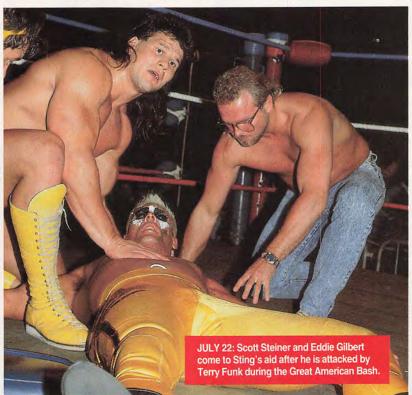


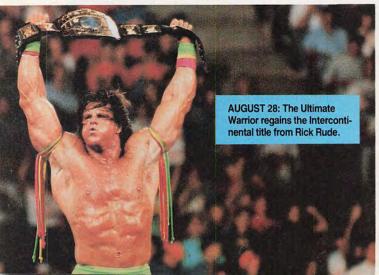


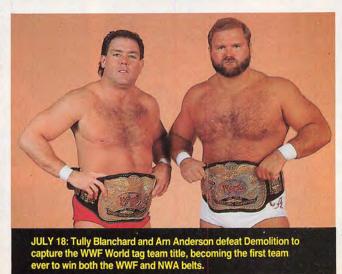
AUGUST 28: Zeus bearhugs Hulk Hogan at SummerSlam. Hogan and Brutus Beefcake defeated Zeus and Randy Savage.

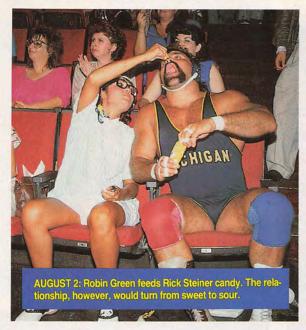


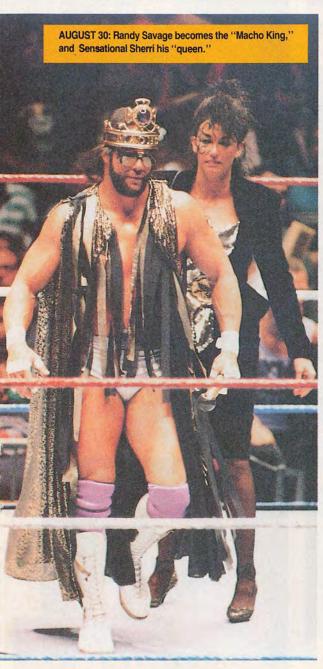


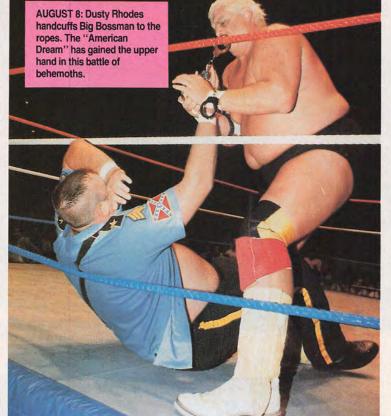


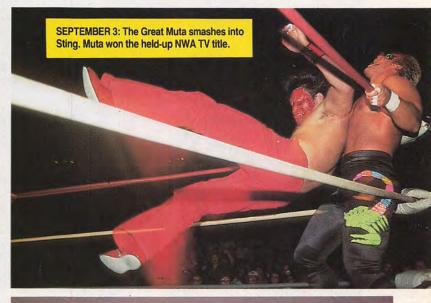


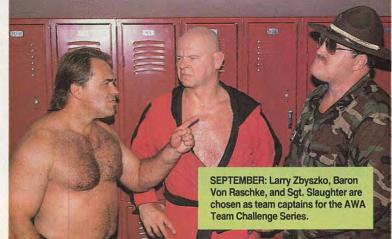


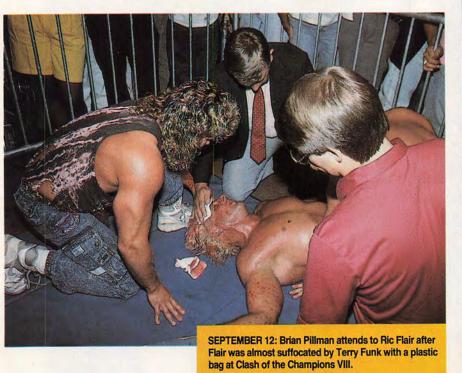


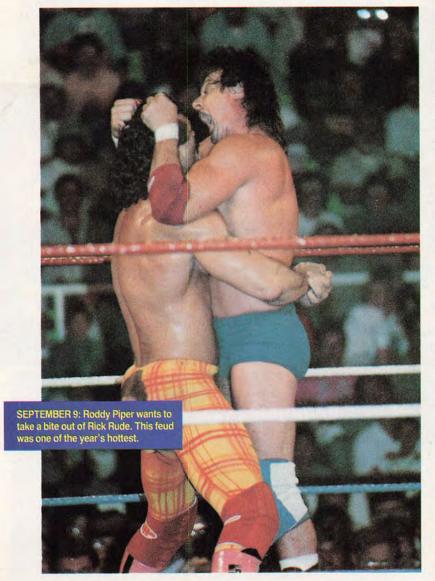












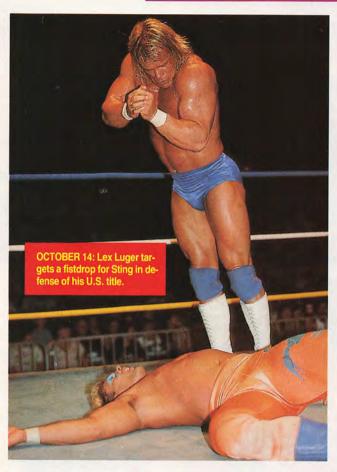


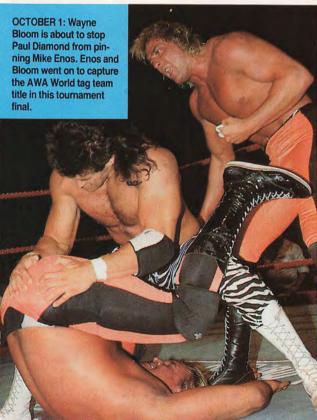
OCTOBER 2: Hulk Hogan batters Randy Savage during a steel cage match. The "Hulkster" won, continuing his domination of the "Macho Man."



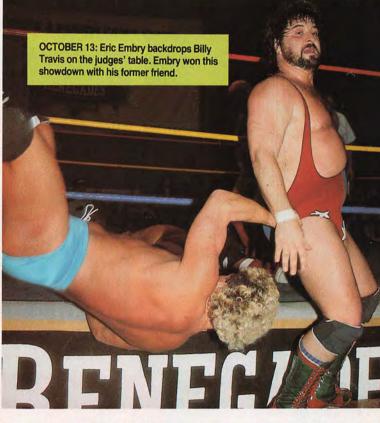


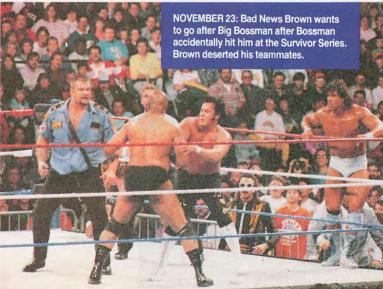
OCTOBER 28: The Great Muta and Terry Funk double-team Ric Flair during the Thunderdome cage match at "Halloween Havoc."





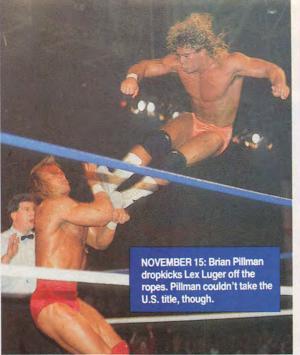








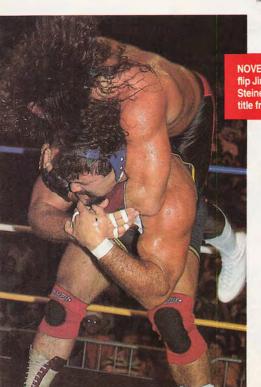
NOVEMBER 15: Terry Funk piledrives Ric Flair. Funk would go on to lose this controversial "I Quit" match and shake Flair's hand.



NOVEMBER 15: Shane Douglas armlocks Bobby Eaton. Douglas and Johnny Ace fell prey to Jim Cornette's double-cross tactics.

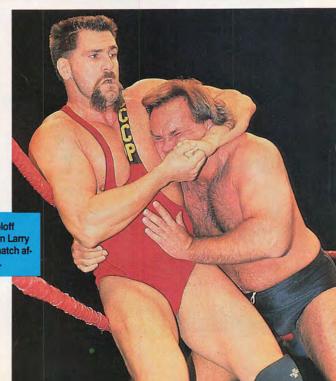


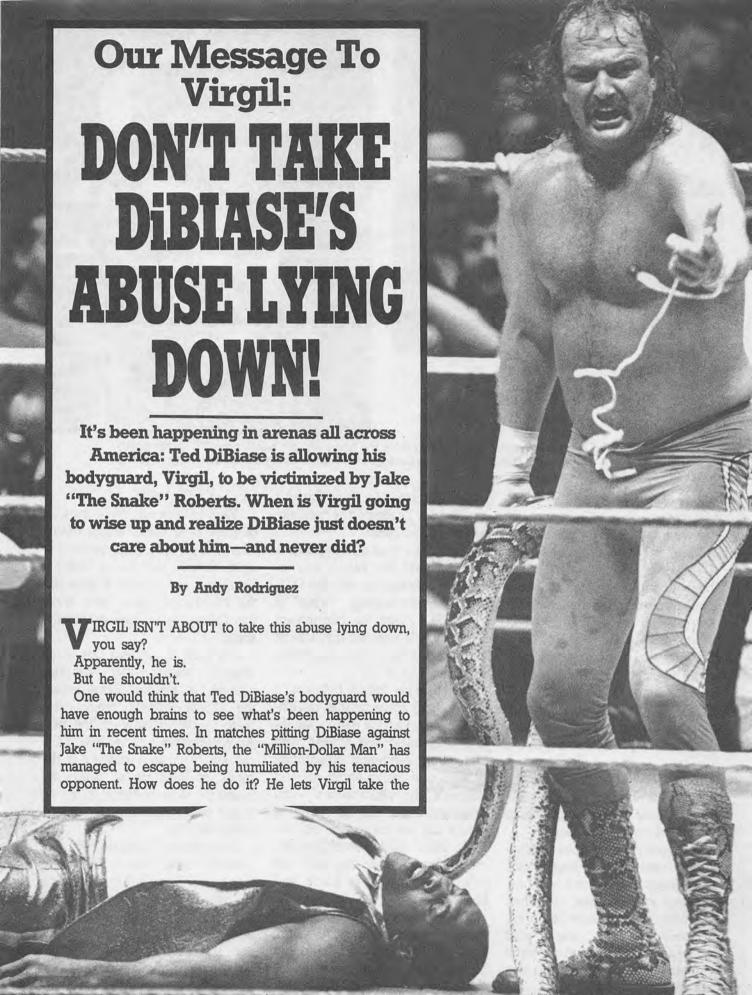




NOVEMBER 1: Rick Steiner tries to flip Jim Garvin off his back. The Steiners captured the NWA tag team title from Garvin and Michael Hayes.

> NOVEMBER 18: Nikita Koloff headlocks AWA champion Larry Zbyszko in his first title match after his return to the sport.









Jake "The Snake" Roberts pulls Virgil back in the ring (above left) and executes the DDT on him (above right). Although Ted DiBiase is taking the beatings from Roberts during the matches, Virgil is getting beat up afterward.

heat ... and the snake.

Wake up, Virgil! Wake up before it's too late! The "Million-Dollar Man" is playing you for a fool!

"DiBiase couldn't care less about Virgil," said Don Muraco, who saw firsthand the relationship between DiBiase and Virgil when he wrestled in the WWF. "Virgil should have woken up a long time ago. This isn't the first time DiBiase's left him holding the bag. Di-Biase's been leading him along by the nose for more than two years now, and Virgil just takes it like a little puppy. It's pathetic."

Why does Virgil subject himself to such horrible treatment, working for a man who obviously cares nothing about his well-being?

"It's money, no question," Muraco continued. "DiBiase has bucketloads of cash, and he's paying Virgil very handsomely. When you work for somebody called the 'Million-Dollar Man,' that's what you expect, and that's what Virgil is getting, the kind of living that only money can buy." But what kind of a living forces a man to take beatings that rightfully belong to his boss?

"Hell, that's what a bodyguard is paid for," said Ken Patera, another ex-WWF star familiar with the DiBiase-Virgil relationship. "Virgil is supposed to take the punishment for DiBiase. If you ask me, I think Virgil is just doing his job. Ted's not using him at all."

Despite what Patera believes, it is becoming apparent that, in DiBiase's hands, Virgil is merely an object to be used and abused with frightening frequency. Regardless of what one thinks about his and DiBiase's ring philosophies, Virgil deserves better for his years of loyalty and service to the "Million-Dollar Man." He has stuck by DiBiase through good and bad, but he's being repaid in black and blue.

It's no longer an issue of money; a man's pride is at stake. Virgil can't take this abuse for long, and he will soon have to make a difficult choice: Leave DiBiase's employ, or fight back!

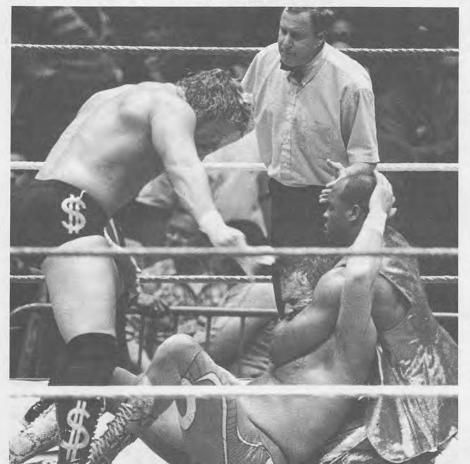
"Hey, believe me, there are a lot of guys over there who'd gladly take Virgil's side if he wanted to fight DiBiase," said Patera. "Even if Virgil was the actual one who laid the beating on them, they know that DiBiase is the one calling the shots."

It is hard to believe that Virgil doesn't harbor any grudges against his mentor. Even before the DiBiase-Roberts feud, there were problems between the two. At WrestleMania IV in 1988, DiBiase left Virgil to a beating at the hands of Hulk Hogan. Virgil remains the stoic bodyguard, but he surely hasn't forgotten that humiliating moment.

What should Virgil do? His first possible option is to wash his hands of DiBiase and strike out on his own. It's something he should seriously consider. Virgil has wrestled by DiBiase's side and on his own. He has the raw talent. With some intense training, he could be a contender to the World and In-



Virgil is helped to his feet by the referees (above). While Virgil chinlocks Roberts, DiBiase slaps him across the face with a wad of bills (below).



tercontinental titles. He's definitely got the power for it. Why should he waste his time bodyguarding—and absorbing beatings—for DiBiase when he can win titles on his own?

Only Virgil knows the answer to that question.

"As you know," said one WWF source, "Virgil doesn't do much talking, so when he opens his mouth, you listen. Once he told me DiBiase isn't so hard to deal with, because he's had a lot of worse jobs than getting beat up in the ring, and they didn't pay nearly as much. But I noticed some strain in his voice, like he was trying to tell me something without actually saying it."

If Virgil is actually thinking about making a move, he can't afford to wait much longer. The nightly beatings are taking a tremendous physical and mental toll on him.

Friends of Virgil say he may snap at any moment.

"I'm really shocked that Ted has let this happen," said a close friend of both men. "Virgil never complains, never says a word. He always does whatever Ted tells him to. You talk about Virgil waking up? Ted had better wake up and realize what a good thing he's got going with Virgil. One day Virgil won't be there anymore. On that day, Ted's career will be in big, big trouble."

If you won't listen to us, Virgil, listen to your friends. You've come to a dead end under the "Million-Dollar Man." If you still want to make a name for yourself in this sport, you can't afford to sit on your hands.

Makes you wonder who the real snake is, Virgil, doesn't it? Who's slimier: Roberts, Damien ... or DiBiase?

When you figure out the right answer, DiBiase could be in for a heck of a fight . . . and he'll have no bodyguard to protect him.

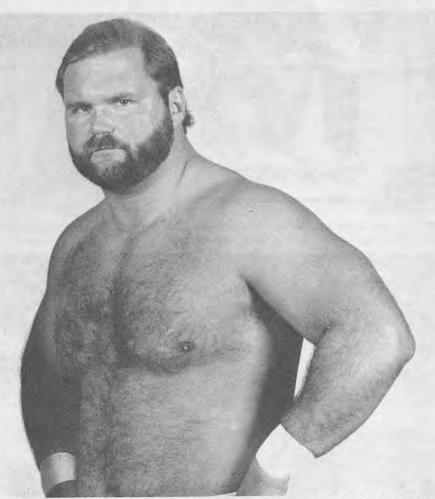
SPORTS REVIEW

ARN ANDERSON

THE PAST 12 months have been the best of times and the worst of times for Arn Anderson. He and Tully Blanchard accomplished what many considered an impossible feat when they defeated Demolition for the WWF World tag team championship on July 18 in Worcester, Massachusetts. That victory established The Brain Busters as one of the finest tandems of all time, as they were the first duo ever to win both the NWA and WWF World titles in their careers.

But when they captured the WWF belts, trouble followed. They began arguing incessantly with their manager, Bobby Heenan, about match strategies. It was this internal strife that led to their loss of the title to Ax and Smash on October 2 in Wheeling, West Virginia. On October 31, they were unceremoniously dumped by Heenan while they were in the process of losing a best-of-three-falls match to Shawn Michaels and Marty Jannetty in Topeka, Kansas.

After experiencing all the glory a man could ask for, Anderson had reached the bottom of the barrel—or so it appeared. Right after he and Blanchard had been fired, Arn saw that NWA World champion Ric Flair was having trouble with Gary Hart and his J-Tex Corporation. Anderson immediately offered to come to the NWA to aid Flair in his battles against Hart, The Great Muta, The Dragon Master, and Buzz Sawyer. Flair took Arn up on the offer, and Arn sweetened the offer by recruiting Ole Anderson to join Flair. Instantly, three of the



Am Anderson is back in the NWA where he's once again teaming with Ric Flair and Ole Anderson, his partners in the original Four Horsemen.

original members of the legendary rulebreaking organization known as The Four Horsemen were back together again.

An even bigger surprise is that the Andersons are wrestling as full-fledged fan favorites! Whenever Flair is sneak-attacked, the Andersons are there to make sure that Flair would not be hurt. It's similar to the old Horsemen style—but this time, the fans are solid-

ly behind them! And Anderson seems totally rejuvenated by his return to the NWA, as if coming back to the scene of many of his past glories has given him a new lease on life.

Associate Editor Bob Smith caught up with Arn at the Center Stage Theater in Atlanta just moments after Flair had announced to the world that the Minneapolis native was back in the NWA fold.



Am leglocks Ole in a January 1981 match (above); it's hard to believe they were once enemies. Am attempts a sunset flip on Smash (below); Am and Tully Blanchard left the WWF after their title loss to Demolition became official.



- Q: Arn, it's good to speak with you again. It's really thrilling to see you back in the NWA. The Brain Busters . . .
- A: Hold it right there, pal. I don't want to hear that nickname ever again. Tully and I did everything a team could do for that weasel Heenan, and all we got for our efforts was a bunch of bull coming out of that guy's mouth.
- Q: I guess you're still pretty bitter toward Heenan.
- A: Bitter? That's not the word for it. We did something that very few teams in this sport have ever been able to do, and that's beat Demolition. We held those belts with pride for three months. Plus, if you look back at the match where we lost the title, Ax pinned Tully for the victory, but neither of those guys were the legal men in the ring at the time! Instead of filing a formal protest to the WWF about that match, Heenan starting coming on to us like he was God's gift to wrestling. Let me tell you, that guy's reputation is severely inflated. If he knows anything at all about this sport, he surely didn't show it to us.
- Q: So after he fired you . . .
- A: There's another lie. He went on TV and claimed that he canned us, but you never saw him do it directly to us, did you? No way. He called us the worst tag team he'd ever been associated with, and he did it in front of a national television audience. But he never said anything to me and Tully, and that shows you what a complete coward the guy really is. But I can tell the world now: Heenan is a liar, a skunk, and a thief. Please don't bring his name up again, will you?
- Q: But what about Tully? Why hasn't he joined you, Ole, and Flair in the NWA?
- A: (pauses) That's a good question, and let me answer it this way. Blanchard is used to wrestling in only one style, and that's a straightforward and brutal rule-breaking style. I told Tully all

about it when I called Flair and offered my services to him. But Tully knew that Ric is a fan favorite now, and there's no way that Blanchard could ever adopt to that kind of style-or so he thinks. anyway. Personally, I'm not doing anything different now than I did the last time I was in the NWA. But this time, I'm wrestling the men that the fans hate. But nobody's ever gonna make me change my way of wrestling. That's what's made me a success in this game, and that's what's gonna keep me on top.

- Q: Won't you miss Tully, though? After all, you captured three world tag team titles with the man.
- A: Of course I will. I agree when a lot of the critics call us the best tag team ever. We blended speed, power, and science better than any other two men I can think of. But time brings change, and I'm ready for whatever the NWA has in store for me. Naturally, Tully and I are still friends. Who knows? Maybe someday he'll change his mind and come and join me. But I've got other things on my mind right now, and that's goin' after Hart and his J-Tex boys.
- Q: What factor was it that made you want to return to the NWA? Was it totally because of your WWF woes?
- A: Not at all. Actually, it was Clash of the Champions IX that made my mind up for me. Remember the end of the main event, when Flair got his hand shook after beating Terry Funk? After that, he was attacked by Hart, Muta, Dragon Master, and Lex Luger. Sting came running out to his defense, but there was no way that Sting and Flair could take on all those men. Remember when the Horsemen were all together? Nobody messed with any of us in those days, because they knew what they'd get if the did-they'd have to contend with the other three Horsemen. So why should things be any different now? Flair's blood, and I'm not



Anderson chinlocks Lex Luger. Am says he'd like to go after Luger's U.S. title in addition to Muta's NWA TV belt.

gonna see Hart and his paid assassins get the better of him.

- Q: Flair's a different man now than he was two years ago, though. He's considered a fan favorite, and he's stopped sneak-attacking people the way he used to. But how about you? Are you capable of staying withing the framework of the rulebook?
- A: What a question! What has Arn Anderson ever done that was so bad? Granted, I haven't been an angel throughout most of my career. But what I have been is a rugged, no-nonsense wrestler who manages to get the job done. And from what I see, there's a lot of work for me to do in the NWA.
- Q: We know that you're here to give Flair a hand, but I know that you're a fiercely competitive person. Do you have any new titles in mind?
- A: Sure I do. Ole and I are going to do a lot of teaming together, so the

NWA World tag team title isn't out of the question. We won the Georgia National title together back in 1985, and we're as good now as we were back then. Maybe better. But I'd really like to get my mitts on Muta. He's been the TV champion for a long time now, and it's only because of all the outside interference he gets from Hart. Well, I think I'm tough enough to take on both Muta and Hart and the same time. I'm not scared of either one of 'em. And then there's Luger, too.

- Q: Really? Would you like to become a contender for the U.S. title?
- A: Certainly. I think I can beat that guy. If you ask me, he's a total disgrace. He's not a good enough wrestler to beat Flair, and he knows it. That's why he had to go and attack Ric and destroy his *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* Wrestler of the Decade trophy. It was the mark of a desperate man. Well,

the only thing I'm desperate to do is put a few knots on that big overstuffed idiot's head.

- O: Are you bitter toward Luger over his old role in the Horsemen?
- A: That's got a little bit to do with it, sure. When he was a member of the Horsemen, he used to look down on me and Tully, like we were there to serve his purposes, or something like that. The air he used to throw off is that nobody could ever match his strength or his looks. The arrogant creep. I'd just love to wipe that smile off his puss by taking that U.S. belt away from him. That'd be a hell of a way to return to the NWA.
- Q: What's your opinion of the NWA now that you've returned? It's a lot different now than it was when vou left.
- A: It sure is. I don't think there's ever been more talent in the NWA than there is right now. But I'm a man who's used to overcoming the odds. When I started teaming with Tully and said that we'd win the NWA World tag title, I did ittwice. When we went to the WWF. I said we'd win the WWF World tag team title, and we did that, too. And now that I'm back in the NWA, you can rest assured that I'll capture the gold once again. It seems I'm continuously underrated. but I always manage to rise right up to the top, don't I?
- Q: That's for sure. But as we close this interview, I have to ask this question once more. Can the fans really trust Arn Anderson?
- A: I said it before, and I'll say it again. I'm not a rulebreaker. I'm not a fan favorite, either. I'm a wrestler. And I'm one of the best wrestlers you'll ever see. Right now, I'm here to help out Flair a little bit. After all, the man did a lot for my career. But beyond that, who knows what 1990 will bring? As far as I'm concerned, the future looks great. And it'll look even better once we get rid of Hart and his stooges-and you can bet the bank that we will.

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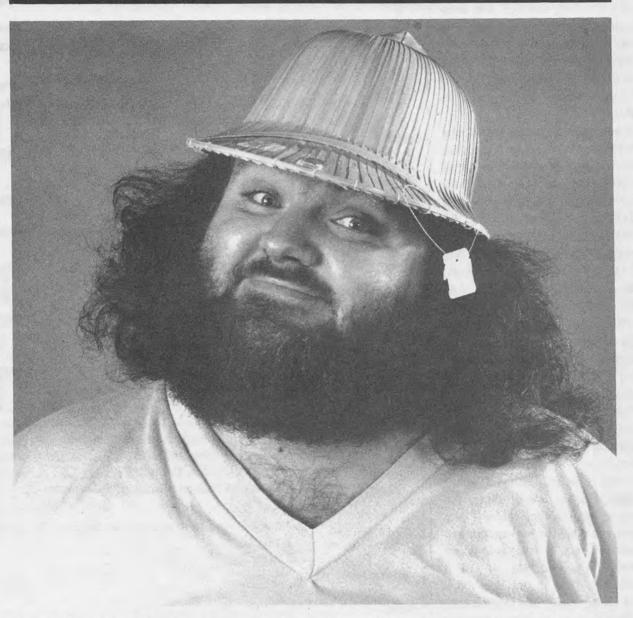


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NORMAN (THE LUNATIC?)

Wrestling's Most Misunderstood Man



Dr. Sidney M. Basil, a respected psychologist, is a devoted wrestling fan who has often been called upon to analyze unusual situations. And has there ever been a more unusual individual in our sport than Norman the Lunatic?



By Sidney M. Basil, PhD

THE TERM "CRAZY," when used by the general public (no professional, to my knowledge, would ever use the word), has traditionally indicated an amateur judgment of mental illness, an opinion based on hearsay with no clinical backing whatsoever. Over the years, however, the word has, quite unfortunately, become a cliche. People say, "He's crazy," "That's crazy," "You're crazy to do that," simply as an indication that they wouldn't do the same thing. Seldom is any genuine judgment of mental capacity intended.

It would undoubtedly surprise most people to learn that many people who actually are suffering from mental illness could easily go unnoticed as successful businessmen, homemakers, professionals, and so on, if they were to be judged on appearance alone.

Which brings us to the case of Norman. Or, as he is more vividly described, Norman the Lunatic. If one were to compile a definition of what the aforementioned "crazy" looks like, Norman would certainly fulfill the requirements. When we first saw him, he was dressed in institutional garb. His beard had grown scraggly, his eyes appeared empty, and he spoke few words. He was being led around by his manager, Teddy Long, who apparently had no desire to help this man at all.

The implication, of course, was that insane equals violent, an equation that is as unfortunately made as it is often untrue. Many mentally ill individuals are much calmer than supposedly normal people. But they are misunderstood and never given a chance to break out of their stereotype. It is this stereotype, I believe, that Teddy Long wished to promote. Perhaps he real-



Norman the Lunatic bearhugs Brian Pillman (left) and executes a flying bodysplash on Steve Casey (above). Is Norman crazy, or does he just act that way?

ized that Norman was not a good wrestler, but that the element of fear would give him an immediate advantage.

Yes, it worked, but only to a certain degree. Before long, it became obvious that Norman has an extremely passive nature and is more prone to love than hate. He seems to have the gentle demeanor of a six-year-old and is more interested in stuffed animals and Santa Claus than in beating up opponents and causing harm. He wishes to make friends, not enemies, and this was not in accordance with Long's plans.

But is this illusion, too? Remember: There has never been clinical proof that Norman is psychotic or has ever been institutionalized. The outfit he wears can be bought at any hospital outfitter's outlet. Long hoped to intimidate opponents with this illusion of Norman; now, having been caught in the lie, Norman has no choice but to go along with it—although in a much different manner and without Long's assistance.

Unfortunately, there is no way to research a proper and complete answer to this question. Norman will not divulge his last name. In fact, I hoped to interview him, but instead found myself confronted by a drooling, oversized man grasping a teddy bear as if





Mike Rotundo uses the ropes for an abdominal stretch on Norman (left). When Teddy Long managed Norman, he used a key to control him (above). The referee pleads with Norman to put away his teddy bear (below).

for dear life. He stroked it tenderly and reacted in fear when I reached for the bear. Only when I said to him, "Mr. Norman, gotta get a Gund?" was there any measurable reaction. His eyes lit up and I could see him getting excited. But he continued to ignore further questions.

My opinion is that Norman is trying to conceal something, although I do not know what that might be. Perhaps he is embarrassed about his relationship with Mr. Long and is now trying to make up for it in an opposite manner. I would be more pleased to see Norman either seek psychological treatment or admit that his whole personality is a scam. Either of these moves would be a step in the right direction: honesty.

Although I do believe that Norman may have some psychological problems, I am convinced that he is *not* dangerous and never has been. In fact, I believe that with some help, he could function in everyday society and possibly make a contribution. Whether or not he has the ability to become a top pro wrestler remains to be seen. I have talked to several experts and they have their doubts.

Meanwhile, it would be nice to see the public take a different approach to Norman. Don't laugh at him. Mental



illness is not to be taken lightly. Millions and millions of dollars are spent each year researching and trying to treat various types of mental illnesses. And even if Norman isn't mentally ill, he does suffer from one problem: the lack of a proper identity. Mr. Norman is extremely insecure, and that is something that ought to be addressed.

I'd like to conclude this brief essay by stating how frustrated I have been by this entire situation. I do not believe that mental illness should be a part of professional wrestling. I do believe that Teddy Long did a severe disservice to the general attitude toward the mentally ill by his portrayal of Norman. I am also frustrated by my inability to diagnose Norman. I have never run into a situation like this before.

Perhaps the NWA can take the proper steps toward helping this man. If he can be taught to lead a productive life, we would all benefit. For now, look upon him as you would an unfortunate sibling. He needs our help. He is reaching out. We must reach out to him.

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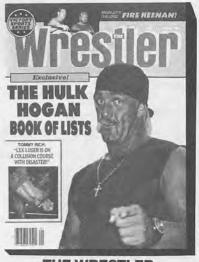
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MAILBAG

(Continued from page 5)

SAVAGE'S LAST CHANCE?

From what I've seen of Randy Savage lately, your article is dead wrong ("'Macho King' Savage: His Last Chance At Glory?" January 1990). Savage is done, and even a few questionable victories against Hacksaw Duggan can't change that. Savage had his time in the sun, but he's not a special star like Hulk Hogan, so he won't get another chance. Even Elizabeth can't save him now.

JOSHUA BELL Ottawa, Ontario

Being "King" is Savage's only chance at glory because he has nothing else left. He's grasping at straws as he watches his career fade away. Savage is a bitter man who had his only success when Hogan and the fans were on his side. He would have never won the WWF World title in the first place if not for Hogan. Now their friendship is over forever and Savage might as well give up.

MICHAEL TORKE Johnstown, PA

You people are dead wrong about "Macho King" Savage. He's come back before and he'll do it again. Just because he went into a little slump after losing the title to Hogan at Wrestle-Mania V doesn't mean he can't come back. He'll get his career back on track and you'll be eating your words. Long live the king!

JAMES ROWAN Kew Gardens, NY

STING VS. ULTIMATE

I would like to comment on a remark Jim Ross made during the Thunderdome cage match at "Halloween Havoc." Ross said: "Sting started out on a team called The Blade Runners. I think his partner hasn't come along like this kid has."

I have to strongly disagree with this comment. Who is the current WWF Intercontinental champion? Who pinned Andre the Giant in under 30



Randy Savage doesn't have much of a career without Hulk Hogan's friendship, in reader Michael Torke's opinion.

seconds many times? Not Sting.

Don't get me wrong, I think Sting is a tremendous competitor, but he doesn't measure up to his former Blade Runner partner: The Ultimate Warrior.

> JASON QUINN Glendora, CA

I am writing to express my deep disappointment with your article about the AWA World tag team title in the January issue. Remember me? I am the current president of the American Wrestling Association. The former president is Stanley Blackburn. For some reason, he, not I, was interviewed for your story. To me, this is the highest level of shabby journalism. Why wasn't I consulted as to the reasons for what happened? I would have liked to give my side of the story.

JOE BLANCHARD St. Paul, MN (Continued on page 56)

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MAILBAG

(Continued from page 54)

SPEAKING OF SID

Sid Vicious is awesome ("Sports Review Interview," January), but, like everybody has been saying, he needs to get away from Dan Spivey and Teddy Long. A partner can only neutralize Vicious' great abilities and strength.

TERRY ADAMS Lansing, MI

They've been saying it all along, and now Sid Vicious is ready to prove that he's the most incredible wrestler to come along since Hulk Hogan. Actually, Vicious is a lot better than Hogan because he's a more well-rounded wrestler. This guy's unbeatable!

LISA DISIMONE Kansas City, KS

Vicious is another example of what's wrong with this sport: too much emphasis on what a wrestler *looks* like. The *real* wrestlers are men like Ric

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Sid Vicious looks to throw Scott Hall back in the ring. Reader Lisa DiSimone is of the opinion that Vicious is a well-rounded wrestler, not just a powerhouse.

Flair, Curt Hennig, and Eric Embry.

Muscle monsters like Vicious are ruining our sport.

LISA BENSON San Antonio, TX

TITLE CONTROVERSY

I am writing this letter because something is very wrong. In the January 1990 issue, you talked about Demolition recapturing the WWF World tag team title in "Tattler," "Wrestler of the Month," and "Point/Counterpoint." You printed in all three articles that the victory occurred on October 2.

I don't think your magazine would make three consecutive mistakes, but on October 15, some friends and I attended a WWF card at the Hersheypark Arena. The Brain Busters were on the card against Demolition. Tully and Arn came to the ring wearing the belts and were acknowledged by the ring announcer as the current

WWF champions. Demolition won the match on a countout, and the Busters left with the belts.

I'm totally confused.

DON MARKIEWICZ Mahahony City, PA

[Editor's note: The title did, indeed, change hands on October 2 in Wheeling, West Virginia, but was not acknowledged by the WWF until nearly a month later. There was a controversy over the finish of the match and the WWF conducted an investigation while allowing Anderson and Blanchard to keep the belts. For a complete report on this incident, see "Exclusive Investigation: WWF Tag Team Title Cover-Up!" in the Spring 1990 issue of Wrestling Superstars.]

THE LEGENDARY LEGION

Come on, guys, all this talk about The Skyscrapers being a challenge to The Road Warriors is bull. The Road (Continued on page 58)

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January 1981/Morales-Fuji, Zbyszko, Thornton, Keirn,

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September 1981/Backlund-Mosca. Freebirds, Flair, Rich, Junkyard Dog. November 1981/Rhodes-DiBiase Steamboat, Mulligan, McDaniel, Spoiler. December 1981/Muraco-Morales Patera, Steele, Andre.

March 1982/Valentine, Brisco-Funk, Steele, Flair, Hayes.

April 1982/Spoiler, Idol-Hayes, Morales, Super D, Ladd.

May 1982/Rich-Flair, Backlund, Super-star, Dillon, Wrestling II. June 1982/Tommy Rich, Jimmy Snuka, Wrestlers rate each other.

July 1982/Steamboat-Idol, Albano, Rhodes, Patera.

August 1982/Piper-Rich, Flair-Slater, Rhodes, Valentine, Bockwinkel. October 1982/Funk-Abdullah, Orton, Kabuki, Von Erich.

November 1982/Piper, Abdullah, Saito, Von Erich, Mascaras

December 1982/Backlund-Rose, Rhodes-Flair, Albano, Humperdink. January 1983/Rich, McDaniel-Valentine, Patera, Brisco, Bockwinkel. February 1983/Flair-Race, Morales-Rose, Patera, Bravo, Spoile

March 1983/Flair-Bass, Snuka, Sullivan, Steamboat, Patera.

April 1983/Backlund-Graham, Briscos. Rhodes, Hogan, Samoans. May 1983/Muraco, Dillon, Sullivan,

Reed, Brisco, Von Erich.

June 1983/Piper, Bockwinkel-Patterson, Brody, Sullivan, Baba. July 1983/Valiant-Humperdink, Martel

Hernandez, Murdoch, Armstrong October 1983/Martel-Valentine, Mulligan, Lawler, Von Erichs, Bruno.

November 1983/Andre-Mulligan, Kamala-Brody, Slater, Backlund.

December 1983/Windham-LeDuc, Santana, Sullivan, Garvin

January 1984/Andre-Abdullah, Bockwinkel, Gilbert, Windham, Flair, Mosca. February 1984/Rich-Sawyer, Idol-Han-sen, Martel, Parsons, Von Erich. March 1984/Starrcade '83, Closeups on Atlanta and Dallas cards

April 1984/Von Erich-Gordy, Dillon & Nagasaki, Graham, DiBiase, Orndorff. May 1984/LeDuc-Sawyer, Assassins, The Men Who Make Wrestling Fly! June 1984/Windham-Flair, Gilbert,

Sawyer, Bockwinkel, Tsuruta. July 1984/Flair-Gordy, Duggan, Blanchard, Brisco, AWA tag tourny. August 1984/Rich & Gilbert, Adams-Hayes, Von Erich, Faces Of Wrestling. September 1984/Flair-Steamboat, Freebirds-Von Erichs—Special cover-

age of two big cards.

October 1984/Sullivan-Rhodes, Free-

birds video, Atlas, Orange Bowl card. November 1984/Von Erich & Billy Jack, Andre, Fab Ones, Summer Wars! December 1984/Rich-Gilbert, Martel, Mascaras, Youngblood, World Class January 1985/Flair-McDaniel, Missing Link, Backlund, Fabulous Ones, Pro Wrestling USA, Valentine.

February 1985/Sullivan-Graham, Her-nandez & Nicola Roberts, Bruno Jr., Steamboat, Warriors.

March 1985/Starrcade '84 featuring Flair, Rhodes, Steamboat, Koloffs, 1985 Datebook, Hayes, wrestling school. April 1985/Von Erich-Blackwell Haynes-Barr, Hart, Irwins, 1984 in Pic-

tures, Blair May 1985/Albano, Freebirds-Flair, Steamboat, Hernandez, Las Vegas.

June 1985/Pro Wrestling U.S.A, Von Erich, Richter, Windham, Taylor. July 1985/Von Erich, WrestleMania, bloodiest matches, Backlund, Snuka. August 1985/Flair-Nikita, Orndorff, Slaughter, Parade of Champions II. September 1985/Adams-Von Erich, Orndorff, Sawyer, Kamala, Barr. October 1985/Martel-Hayes, Richter, Savage, Adams, T.A., Warriors. November 1985/Freebirds-Warriors, Mid-South, Haynes, Rhodes, Savage

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December 1985/Hogan, Zbyszko-Mar-tel, Murdoch, Dillon, fiendish faces. January 1986/Savage-Santana, Abdullah, Humongous, Von Raschke, Comiskey Park, Taylor.

February 1986/Junkyard Dog, Rude, Patrick, Garvin, Reed, Datebook. March 1986/Starrcade '85, Ventura, Windham, Sunshine, Slaughter.

April 1986/Savage-Hogan, Martel-Han-sen, 1985 in Pictures, Warriors, DiBiase. May 1986/Sammartino, R&R Express, Sunshine-Hyatt, Slater, Devastating Holds, Hall & Hennig.

June 1986/Hogan-Muraco, Midnight Express, Freebirds, Battle of Belts II. July 1986/Orndorff-Piper, Blanchard-T.A., Matches of '80s, Sheepherders, Bockwinkel, Bulldogs.

August 1986/Crockett Cup Tourny, Jake Roberts, Midnight Rockers, Von

Erichs, Wrestling II.

Erichs, Wrestling II.
September 1986/Bulldogs, BlanchardGibson, Lugar, Dundee, UWF tourny.
October 1986/Omdorff, Rude-Brody,
Bash, Bockwinkel, Gordy, Adams. November 1986/Andersons-R&R Express, Machine, Gordy, Managers.
December 1986/Machines, Fantastics, Warriors, WWF Muchnick Tourny January 1987/Russians, Hyatt-Dark Journey, WWF Top 50, Fab Ones February 1987/Road Warriors, Savage, Windham & Lugar, 1987 Datebook. March 1987/Kamala-Hogan, Starrcade 86, Atlas, Williams, Tatum. April 1987/1986 in Pictures, Kevin Von, Flair, Rich, Hennig-Bockwinkel.

May 1987/Nikita-Flair, Bulldogs, Alba-no's career, Snuka-DeBeers, Taylor. June 1987/Hogan-Andre, Hall, Parsons, Garvin, WWF title history. July 1987/Midnight Express, Savage-Steamboat, Adams, NWA in Boston. August 1987/Nord-Kevin, Armstrong-Flair, Hogan & Patera, Crockett Cup.

September 1987/Hogan, Akbar, Luger-Nikita, Summer Feuds, charity shows October 1987/Windham, Bigelow, Bockwinkel, Western States tourny. November 1987/Bash, Honky Tonk, Hart, Sheepherders, Condrey

December 1987/Grappling Ghouls, Hogan-Andre, Luger-Nikita, Boesch card January 1988/Honky Tonk, Garvin, T.A. career, Arcidi, Hogan. February 1988/Rhodes, Strike Force, Rich-Adonis, Hyatt, 1988 datebook. March 1988/Starrcade, Survivor Series, Simpson, Hennig, Zbyszko. April 1988/1987 In Pictures, Tully & Arn, DiBiase, Kerry, Orton. May 1988/Hawk-Flair, Andre-Hogan, Dangerously, Duggan, Mike George. June 1988/Luger-Tully, DiBlase, Ad-ams, NWA New York invasion.

July 1988/Savage wins WWF tourney, Rockers-Express, Hayes, Dusty-Rider. August 1988/Luger and Sting win

Crockett Cup, Savage-DiBiase, Nasty Boys, Ultimate Warrior. September 1988/Predictions Through

1998, Williams, Rhodes, Bad Company, greatest Garden matches.

October 1988/Midnight Rockers, Sting, Taylor, Koloff, Hot Young Lions. November 1988/R&R Express, Honky Tonk, Von Erichs, Great American Bash. December 1988/Warriors, Samoan SWAT Team, Hart, Andre, Presidential Wrestlers.

Vireagers.

January 1989/Jake-Cheryl-Rude,
Sting, Lawler, Flair, Savage's career.
February 1989/The Champions in '89,
Duggan, Roberts, 1989 datebook April 1989/Starrcade '88, Savage-Hogan, Funk-Mulligan, Heenan, Abdullah. May 1989/Royal Rumble, WrestleMania, Rhodes, Lawler, Horsemen June 1989/Chi-Town Rumble, Hogan-Towers, R&R Express, Rougeaus July 1989/WrestleMania V, Sting, Steamboat, Martel vs. Rude, Embry August 1989/Luger & Sting, Ultimate, Flair's personal photos, Bulldogs. September 1989/Duggan, Wrestle War, Rhodes, Flair-Steamboat, Japan. October 1989/Great American Bash, Piper-Ventura, Savage-Hogan. November 1989/Hogan's toughest matches, Snuka, Sting, Skyscrapers. January 1990/Savage, Woman-Steiner, Vicious, fattest wrestlers. February 1990/Piper, Kerry, Muta &

Luger vs. Flair, Datebook,

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MAILBAG

(Continued from page 56)

Warriors are the toughest tag team in the world. After all, how many tag teams can say they ran a team like The Powers of Pain out of the NWA? The Road Warriors have also been declared too tough for Japan. So give them credit.

AARON HACKENBERG Three Rivers, MI

LEX LOSER

I don't think the NWA should ever let Lex Luger wrestle Ric Flair again for the World title. Flair said he never would wrestle Luger again. After all the shots he has had at the title in the past, Luger proved that he is not championship material.

Luger lacks two things: brains and guts. Didn't he prove that in a match against Brian Pillman? He was getting beaten and left the ring to go to the locker room. He didn't return, which showed that he is yellow.

Where Luger shines is when he takes off his robe or shirt to hear the teenagers ooh and aah over his body.

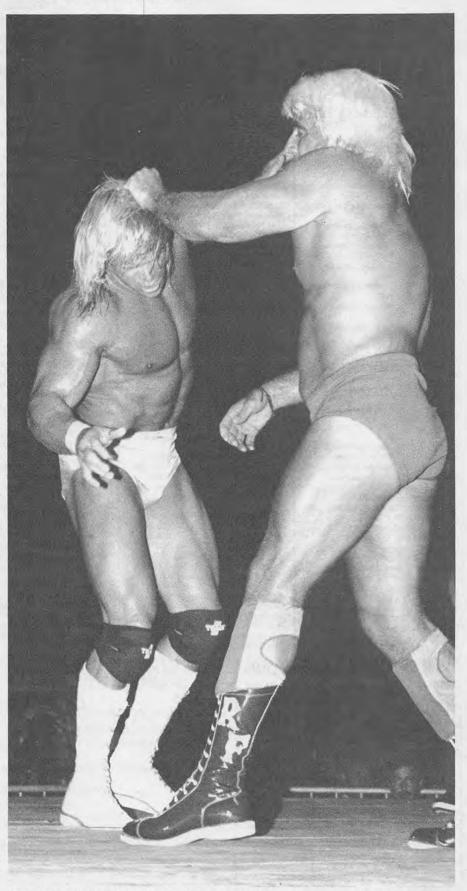
There are several contenders for Flair's title that deserve the shot more than Lex the Loser.

RAY POWERS S. New Berlin, NY

DON'T GO TO THE VIDEOTAPE

"Videotape replay." That's all I seem to hear anymore. In "Point/Counterpoint" (January 1990), Dave Rosenbaum said: "Maybe the referee, amid the confusion, didn't realize who the legal men were. Fine. At that point, the WWF officials should have stepped in, ordered a videotape replay, and reversed the decision."

If we did that every time there was confusion, we wouldn't have had some champs, such as former NWA World tag champs Lex Luger and Barry Windham (a chair to Arn Anderson's head), The Midnight Express (won the U.S. title because of hitting one of the Fantastics over the head with a chair), The Great Muta (NWA TV title because he hit Sting with an object), and



Lex Luger and Ric Flair battle it out in the center of the ring. Reader Ray Powers doesn't think Luger deserves any more shots at Flair's NWA World title. The "Total Package," he writes, lacks brains and guts.

Demolition (both WWF World tag titles). Those are just a few, but there are a lot more.

Let's face it, videotape replay has no use in the sport. It could hold titles up for days or even weeks. Not all wrestlers-good or bad-will always win by the rules. There will always be that little confusion.

> DONALD ALT Colver, PA



All controversy aside, Ax and Smash are the rightful WWF World tag team champions, writes reader Jean Brisbane.

I agree with Andy Rodriguez ("Point/Counterpoint," January 1990) that Demolition deserves the belts. After all, how did they lose them in the first place? The Brain Busters cheated and got outside interference from Bobby Heenan and Andre the Giant.

Now that Tully and Arn are out of the WWF, there really is no controversy anymore. Demolition is the best!

> WILLIAM ROTH Binghamton, NY

Rules are rules, and it's obvious that the WWF didn't follow the rules when Demolition won the World tag team title from The Brain Busters. Only two men can be in the ring at one time. They must be the legal men, meaning that they must have tagged in. In this case, Smash and Arn Anderson were the legal men. Ax pinned Tully Blanchard. How could that be legal? Think about it. There really is no controversy at all.

> JEAN BRISBANE Quebec City

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AUGUST 1989/Stories include: Hogan, Warriors, Martel, Sting, Studd, Morton, Ultimate, Sheik, Funk, PWF.

OCTOBER 1989/Stories include: Rhodes, Savage, Steamboat-Flair, Muta, WrestleMania V. Cornette.

DECEMBER 1989/Stories include: Flair, Warriors, Piper, Bushwhackers, Mascaras, Hogan-Luger.

FEBRUARY 1990/Stories include: Piper-Savage, Hogan, Rhodes, Embry, Kerry, Luger.

APRIL 1990/Stories include: Rhodes, Hogan, Skyscrapers, Snuka, Arn & Tully, Flair, Zbyszko.

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MANAGERS

(Continued from page 25)

Albano, judged the greatest manager of all time by the editors of Sports Review Wrestling. "This sport has changed a lot in the past 25 years. In the old days, everything was a lot simpler. Wrestlers made less money, and the sport as a whole wasn't nearly as popular as it is now. But today, wrestlers are among the best-known athletes in the world. Today's stars need guidance, and nobody was better than I was at giving it to them."

What Albano didn't mention is that he was also among the most devious men of his era, adept as passing foreign objects and interfering in his men's matches. Of the 20 wrestlers that comprise our "Greatest Managers" rankings, 19 of them were rulebreakers for at least part of their careers. There's no denying that a wily manager can more than make up for a wrestler's shortcomings.

"It's not so important how big or strong a wrestler is," said Gen. Skandor Akbar, the current scourge of the USWA who finished 12th in our ratings. "A good manager can make a wrestler truly believe that he is unbeatable. That's exactly what I do, too. A confident athlete is a successful athlete, and I am capable of making everyone I come in contact with totally convinced that he can

be a world champion. The proof is in the pudding. Look at all the belts I've won!"

Indeed, every one of the managers in our rankings led some of his wrestlers to championships. But the selection of these great managers led to some consternation among *Sports Review* editors. Associate Editor Eddie Ellner, of all people, thought the list was a bit on the elitist side.

"This ranking is biased toward east-coast managers," reasoned Ellner. "I mean, Lou Albano, Arnold Skaaland, and The Grand Wizard all in the top five? It's ridiculous. Our magazine is published in New York, so all the old-



A troika of rulebreaking managers—The Grand Wizard, Capt. Lou Albano, and Fred Blassie—dominated the WWF in the 1970s and early '80s. They were successful not only because they cheated, but because they imbued their men with confidence.

time WWF guys get the most votes. Just goes to show how little these know about wrestling."

Albano defended the selections as the editors picked them. "If you were a WWF rulebreaker in the '70s and didn't have a manager, you were nobody," Albano insisted. "Between the Wizard. Fred Blassie, and myself, we controlled some of the greatest wrestlers anybody ever saw. When you made it into our stables, you knew you were among the true elite."



Although he now manages in the WWF. Bobby Heenan had his greatest successes in the AWA.

But that's not to say that the greatest managers of the other federations aren't included in the ratings. Also well represented are the NWA, with Paul Ellering, Jim Cornette, Paul Jones, and Gary Hart. The AWA's Johnny Valiant and Bobby Heenan are also included, as are legendary old-timers such as Bobby Davis, Tony Angelo, and "Wild" Red Berry.

These are the men who have changed the sport with their guile, brilliance, and uncanny ability to bring out the best in their wrestlers. Although it was their wrestlers who won the championships, these managers will also go down in history as some of the most influential people the sport has ever seen.

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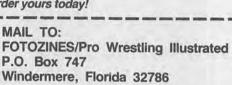
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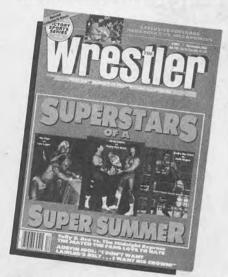
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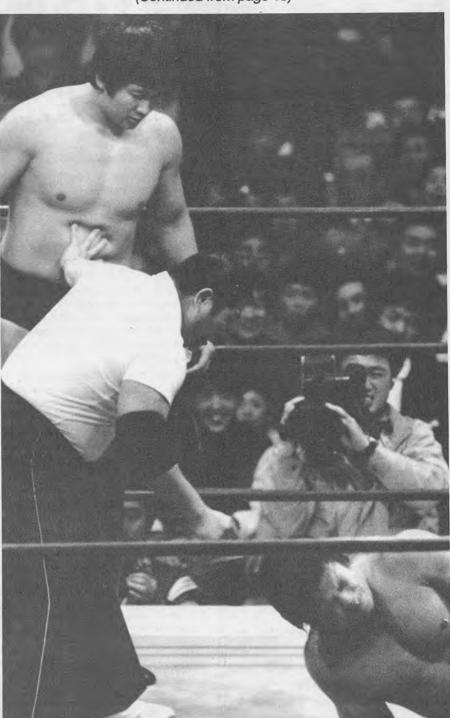


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WE ACCUSE

(Continued from page 18)



Akira Maeda stands over Tatsumi Fujinami. Few Japanese wrestle in the U.S. Manager Gary Hart says American promoters are afraid the Japanese would win all the belts.

I mean, it wouldn't look too good if I ruined his goody-goody image in front of all his beloved fans, would it?"

"That's asinine," Slaughter said when informed of Vader's comments. "I'll take him on anytime, anywhere, anyplace. I remember Leon White pretty well. He didn't impress me much then, and I'm not worried about him now."

But what Vader thinks of Slaughter is not our concern here. We agree with Vader that he should be allowed to wrestle in the U.S. We accuse those promoters intent on shutting him out of ignoring the virtues of fair play to which they pay lip service. They should have nothing to fear; after all, their wrestlers don't.

"I'm embarrassed by that kind of thinking," said one grappler, "Let Vader come here if he wants to. One of the reasons I became a wrestler was to fight the best in the world, and from what I've heard, Vader is one of the best. If they don't let me fight him here, I'll go to Japan or wherever to face him. It doesn't matter one bit."

In fact, many wrestlers who have achieved fame overseas are too often unseen in American rings. Dozens of fine Japanese grapplers, like Riki Choshu, Genichiro Tenryu, and Akira Maeda, rarely venture here. Is it because they choose to remain in their homeland, or because they're not invited?

Gary Hart, manager of The Great Muta, thinks he knows the answer.

"You'll notice that Muta is one of the very few Japanese to ply his trade on these shores," Hart said. "There's a reason for that. The Japanese are too good, too talented. American promoters don't want an invasion of Japanese wrestlers taking all the belts. If Muta didn't have me, he'd never be here "

"That's nonsense," said USWA promoter Jerry Jarrett. "In keeping with the USWA's open-door policy, I welcome the Japanese here with open arms. If they don't accept my offer, that's their problem. I can't spend my valuable time courting the Japaneseor any other foreign wrestlers for that matter. We have many fine foreign wrestlers here as it is. This isn't just an American organization; we're very diverse."

In many ways, Vader is in limbo, an American more famous in Japan than he is in the States. "Listen," he said, "I don't care about all this politics and red tape. I just want to wrestle. They can come up with 1,000 reasons, and they'll all be wrong. What it comes down to is this: The only place you can win a world title is in the U.S. After I get done with Slaughter, I want to get my hands on Zbyszko or Flair or Hogan, take your pick. There's no doubt in my mind I can take them all. My chance better come soon, or there'll be hell to pay!"

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INQUIRING

(Continued from page 12)

of what could happen to her if somebody really hauled off and belted her one. She could be critically hurt. Since that's the case, they should ban women from ringside instead of taking sanctions against the men who get angry at them."

Mary Mears, Charleston, WV: "There's simply no excuse for a man putting his hands on a woman, and that goes for anywhere in this society. I hate to see professional sports soiled by this kind of activity. If someone like Sherri interferes in a match, it's up to the federation to ban her from ringside. If they're too ineffective—or stupid—to do that, then why should anyone blame Sherri for getting involved?"

Steve Seitz, Cairo, NY: "Are you kidding? Seeing a manipulative hag like Woman get the tar pounded out of her is more than just desserts for her. How in the world can a man be expected to turn the other cheek after some of the things these females do? Sherri's got a loaded pocketbook. Sylvia's got a kendo stick. Woman uses her shoe and



Woman frequently gets involved in Doom's matches. If she chooses to interfere, her detractors say, she deserves what she gets.

other foreign objects. When women stoop to hitting men, they're just asking for it. And I hope they get it!"

Sandy Baskin, Omaha, NE: "It's really sad that this question needs to be brought up at all. I'm all for female wrestling. In fact, one of the biggest tragedies of this sport is that women's grappling is all but dead in the NWA and the WWF. Perhaps that's why there are so many valets and managers around. Maybe if there were more places for the girls to wrestle, there wouldn't be so much female violence in the men's matches."

Bertran Bailey, Hartford, CT: "I can't get over the fact that not a single male wrestler has been suspended for his ruthless actions. Hulk Hogan has battered Sherri more times than I can count. Beauty and Beast broke Miss Linda's arm. Even Elizabeth gets manhandled at times. With all the videotape used in recording matches these days, it should be clear and easy. Hit a woman, and you're out of the sport. How else are they going to end the anarchy?"

Louise English, Salisbury, NC: "I'm a woman, but I can see why the male wrestlers get angry. These women are no shrinking violets. I mean, Sherri is a former AWA and WWF World women's champion, and I've seen her use her loaded pocketbook as many as five times during one recent match. I hate to see male wrestlers hit the girls, but if they start the rulebreaking, somebody's got to finish it."

Michelle McDonald, Dallas: "My heart goes out to any woman who's been terrorized by some of these wrestlers. I'll never forget when Tojo Yamamoto and P.Y. Chu-Hi attacked Toni Adams last summer. She was scared to death, and so was everyone else in the Sportatorium. It's a miracle that she wasn't seriously injured. And what did the USWA do to punish those idiots? Nothing. I don't even think they were fined. Instead, they should've been suspended and sent back to Japan." □

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LOCKER ROOM CONFIDENTIAL

(Continued from page 10)

slack, buddy."

That would have been a lot easier if Lawler didn't throw Chris Champion and Mantel to the wolves and then retreat to the dressing room, or if he didn't use a chain on his friend Bill Dundee and then piledrive him into the mat. Besides, when the good people of Memphis boo Jerry Lawler, it's a pretty good indicator that he's doing something wrong.

"The fans don't always know what's right," Lawler said. "Look at those geeks in Texas."

"Those geeks, as you call them, were years ahead of their time," I retorted. "What's come over you?"

"Listen, Apter, this conversation is over. I do what I want to do when I want to do it. I've had this title for a long time and nobody's given me the respect I deserve. I open your magazines and all I see is Ric Flair this, Hulk Hogan that. I've beaten every top wrestler in the country. Hogan and Flair refuse to wrestle me and they still get all the ink. This right and wrong you speak of is getting me nowhere."

I heard the receiver click. The conversation was obviously over, but in many ways it had just begun. Jerry Lawler, 20-year veteran of the ring, one of the most respected wrestlers of modern times, was worried about getting respect. If that's not insecurity, I don't know what is.

The fact is that Lawler breaking the rules isn't so surprising. He's always had a touch of rulebreaker in him, and he's never been one to step back from a violent situation. Lawler does everything necessary to win a match, defend a title, or get in line for a title shot. He isn't one to deal with losing.

What's surprising is that Lawler has gone so far as to alienate the very fans that have stood by him through thick and thin. Many years ago, when Lawler was being vilified for his feud with comedian Andy Kaufman, the Memphis fans realized that he was try-



Lawler slugs Dutch Mantel. In this dispute, fans are turning away from Lawler and towards Mantel. "The King" says he'll always have his detractors as he battles for respect.

ing to protect the integrity of wrestling. When Lawler broke Kaufman's neck with a piledriver, the world groaned; Memphis cheered.

Here's the problem: Lawler turned against his friends. It was very obvious that Mantel was trying to help him out, but Lawler was frustrated and reacted the wrong way. Then the situation snowballed, and Champion and Dundee got on Lawler's bad side. It's pretty safe to say that there isn't a place in the United States where Lawler is loved anymore.

Then, a few days ago, something happened. Lawler teamed with The Soultaker against Master of Pain and Dutch Mantel. Suddenly, Master of Pain and Soultaker started beating up Mantel. Lawler started back to the dressing room, but Nate the Rat began taunting him. Lawler went back to the ring, but he was triple-teamed by Soultaker, Master of Pain, and Lee. Although Lawler and Mantel were left lying in the ring, there was still no indication that they were friends again.

But that's all I needed to see. Lawler's going through a stage, that's all. Maybe he still hasn't made up his mind about which way he's going. Nonetheless, my friend is the same person he's always been. Memphis, your man is ready to come home.

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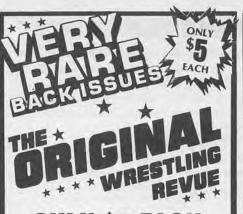
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TATTLER

(Continued from page 6)

And Flair, who was more responsible than anyone for reuniting Ole and Arn, exclaimed, "The Four Horsemen are back!"

The stormy breakup of the Anderson cousins occurred in early 1987, when Ole was accused by the other Horsemen of shirking his responsibilities so he could watch his son wrestle in a high school tournament. Ole was dumped from the Horsemen and feuded with them for several months.

Since then, the Horsemen have scattered in different directions. Ole left the sport. Flair stayed in the NWA, but last spring changed his attitude and began hearing the fans' cheers. Arn and Tully Blanchard went to the WWF, where they won the World tag team title. Then, in October, Flair enlisted Ole to serve as "designated terminator" for he and Sting at the October 28 "Halloween Havoc" main event, and to be in his corner for matches against The Great Muta in November.

"I couldn't turn him down," Ole said. "I decided to put the past behind me and let bygones be bygones."

Then, when Arn Anderson and Tully Blanchard left the WWF, Arn decided to return to the NWA and rejoin forces with Flair. After several conversations with Flair, Arn decided to team with Ole.

Ole and Arn are a formidable duo. They're former Georgia National tag team champs and, between then, have won five world tag team titles. In the match against The Freebirds, they brought the past into the present: Ole and Arn used a double-gourdbuster to floor Hayes before Ole went in for the pin.

Now there are rumors that Blanchard might resurface in the NWA to complete the reformation of The Four Horsemen. If so, can J.J. Dillon be far behind?

-Rich Konsens

Borne got the chance to regain the USWA tag team title they were stripped of in mid-November for failing to defend the belts during a 30-day period. But they proved to be no match for Robert Fuller, Brian Lee, and a loaded boot.

Fuller and Lee won the first two rounds of this one-night tournament



CURT HENNIG

with the help of Stud Stable valet Sylvia. They defeated Kevin Von Erich and Bill Dundee in the first round, then reached the final with a victory over Dustin Rhodes and Jimmy Jack Funk. Jarrett and Borne, meanwhile, reached the final with wins over The Punisher and Sheik Braddock, and Billy Travis and Gary Young.

In the championship bout, Borne and Jarrett had the upper hand when Sylvia tried to use her kendo stick on Jarrett. He grabbed it away, then put Sylvia over his knee and started spanking her. Fuller ran into the ring and kicked Jarrett in the head, knocking him flat on his back. Lee covered Jarrett for the pin and the belts.

"That was a loaded boot!" Jarrett cried after the match. "That didn't feel like a regular kick in the head! Matt and I demand a rematch!" Strangely, Jarrett didn't complain that Lee wasn't the legal man in the ring.

for delivery.

Lee and Fuller, meanwhile, claimed another big victory for The Stud Stable. "What that boy Jarrett tried to do to Sylvia wasn't right and he paid the price," Fuller said. "They can have all the rematches they want, but the outcome's always gonna be the same."

In the first round, Eric Embry and Chris Adams nearly came to blows once again. Embry accidentally clotheslined Adams, causing him to be pinned in their match against Billy Travis and Gary Young. Embry and Adams patched things up, but the volatile history of these two men always means the possibility of future fireworks.

-Andrew Ray

AUSTIN, TX: It was inevitable that Curt Hennig would eventually lose a match in the WWF. And wasn't it also inevitable that Hennig would suffer that loss to World champion Hulk Hogan?

Hennig spent over a year getting into contention for the title, but fell far short in his first series of matches against Hogan. He was pinned by Hogan here on December 1, and was pinned again the following night in San Antonio, Texas.

Hennig grabbed the early advantage and kept Hogan off-balance with a stunning set of scientific maneuvers. Hogan was on the verge of being pinned several times, but managed to power out of several potentially title-losing situations. When Hennig caught Hogan in a "perfectplex," however, it looked as if the "Hulkster's" second title reign was over.

But Hogan powered out once again and fed off the fans' cheers to unleash a devastating assault. Finally, Hogan delivered the final legdrop and covered Hennig for the pin.

Like many other wrestlers before him, Hennig came close to beating Hogan in an early title match. If this feud is like the others, Hogan will keep getting stronger while Hennig fades out of the title picture.

-Dave Levin□

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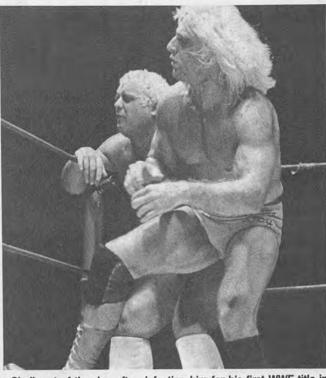
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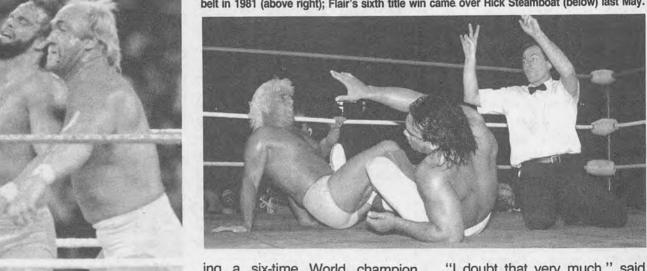
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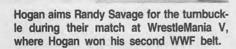
(Continued from page 33)





Hulk Hogan flips The Iron Sheik out of the ring after defeating him for his first WWF title in 1984 (above left). Ric Flair knees Dusty Rhodes in the midsection en route to his first NWA belt in 1981 (above right); Flair's sixth title win came over Rick Steamboat (below) last May.





ing a six-time World champion means he lost and regained the belt five times. In those rare times he didn't have the belt, he was the number-one contender. He's always been in the thick of the action."

"That's true," replied Hazel Beekman of Hawthorne, California, "but Hogan had a four-year title reign, from 1984 to '88. In my book, that's worth more than Flair's shorter reigns. I think this time around, Hogan will hold the belt even longer."

"I doubt that very much," said Senior Writer Dave Rosenbaum. "Hogan's getting older. He's still one of the greats, but the competition will bring him down sooner than a lot of people think. If Zeus or Hennig don't do the job, somebody else will."

"You think Hogan is getting old?" asked Sam Norris of Des Moines, Iowa. "What about Flair? Next to Hogan, he's ancient. Flair's not going to hold that NWA belt of his much longer, especially with Lex Luger and The Great Muta hot on his tail. Frankly, I think it's time for Flair to retire."

"Nonsense!" Race roared. "Flair isn't nearly ready for retirement. Besides, we're supposed to be concentrating on the 1980s here, not the '90s."

"That's right," said Editor-in-Chief Stu Saks, who had been acting as moderator. "Let's not get ahead of ourselves."

"When Hogan started getting involved in all this rock 'n' wrestling business," Studd said, "it made me sick. I've been in this sport for a long time and I didn't want to see us wrestlers made fools of. But then I began to realize that all the attention this was bringing the sport was good in a way. You have to give Hogan his due for that."

"As far as I'm concerned," said Associate Editor Bob Smith, "all this Hollywood business has hurt wrestling. That's why I admire Flair so much. He's not concerned about an acting career or anything like that. He just goes out there and wrestles his heart out night after night. It's refreshing."

"Exactly," Race agreed. "Flair's from the old school, the best school. He doesn't play to the crowd like Hogan does. He just wins, whether or not the fans are behind him."

"Something we're forgetting," said Otto Maitland of Atlanta, "is that Flair was a vicious rulebreaker through most of the '80s, while Hogan has been a fan favorite for the most part. Hogan has made his reputation fighting for fair play and for the kids. Flair was just looking out for himself. Let's hope his new attitude is a permanent one."

The argument could have gone on all day and long into the night, but one indisputable fact shone through all the words: Wrestling has been graced by two great athletes the likes of which may never be seen again.

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SPORTS REVIEW



Sting

TOP 10

- **HULK HOGAN** 302. Venice Beach, CA WWF World champion
- RIC FLAIR 243, Minneapolis, MN NWA World champion
- 3 LEX LUGER 268, Chicago, IL U.S. heavyweight champion
- THE ULTIMATE WARRIOR 280. Queens, NY **WWF** Intercontinental champion
- **CURT HENNIG** 235, Minneapolis, MN No. 2 contender: WWF title
- STING 260, Venice Beach, CA No. 1 contender: U.S. title
- LARRY ZBYSZKO 248, Pittsburgh, PA AWA World champion
- THE GREAT MUTA 245, Tokyo, Japan NWA TV champion
- JERRY LAWLER 234, Memphis, TN **USWA** champion
- KERRY VON ERICH 260, Denton, TX USWA Texas champion

AWA

World Champion: **LARRY ZBYSZKO**

248, Pittsburgh, PA

-SGT. SLAUGHTER

-NIKITA KOLOFF

275, Moscow

3—PAUL DIAMOND

4—JONNIE STEWART

5—THE TROOPER

310, Parris Island, SC

230, Thunder Bay, Ontario

242, Pacific Palisades, CA

TAG TEAMS

- **RICK & SCOTT STEINER** Combined weight: 473 pounds **NWA World tag team champions**
- DEMOLITION Combined weight: 585 pounds
 WWF World tag team champions
- 3 THE MIDNIGHT EXPRESS Combined weight: 458 pounds
 No. 2 contenders: NWA tag team title
- DOOM Combined weight: 565 pounds
 No. 1 contenders: NWA tag team title
- THE ROAD WARRIORS Combined weight: 567 pounds No. 3 contenders: NWA tag team title
- MIKE ENOS & WAYNE BLOOM Combined weight: 518 pounds **AWA World tag team champions**
- THE POWERS OF PAIN Combined weight: 655 pounds
 No. 1 contenders: WWF tag team title
- ANDRE THE GIANT & HAKU Combined weight: 771 pounds
 No. 2 contenders: WWF tag team title
- THE HART FOUNDATION Combined weight: 515 pounds
 No. 3 contenders: WWF tag team title
- OLE & ARN ANDERSON Combined weight: 490 pounds
 No. 4 contenders: NWA tag team title

NWA

World Champion: RIC FLAIR

243, Minneapolis, MN

- 1—LEX LUGER 268, Chicago, IL
- 2—THE GREAT MUTA 245, Tokyo, Japan
- -STING 260, Venice Beach, CA
- -TOM ZENK 237, Minneapolis, MN
- 5—STEVE WILLIAMS 265, Norman, OK
- **6—BUZZ SAWYER** 240, St. Petersburg, FL
- 7—BRIAN PILLMAN 226, Cincinnati, OH
- 8-MIKE ROTUNDO 245, Syracuse, NY
- 9—ROAD WARRIOR ANIMAL 285, Chicago, IL
- 10—KENDALL WINDHAM 220, Sweetwater, TX

WWF

World Champion: **HULK HOGAN**

302, Venice Beach, CA

- -THE ULTIMATE WARRIOR 280, Queens, NY
- 2—CURT HENNIG 235, Minneapolis, MN
- -DINO BRAVO 256, Montreal, Quebec
- -RODDY PIPER 231, Glasgow, Scotland
- 5—RANDY SAVAGE
- -RICK RUDE 246, Robbinsdale, MN
- -BAD NEWS BROWN 280, New York, NY
- -RICK MARTEL 236, Quebec City, Quebec
- 9—DUSTY RHODES 302, Austin, TX

10—BRUTUS BEEFCAKE

273, San Francisco, CA

245, Sarasota, FL

-BARON VON RASCHKE 271, W. Berlin, Germany

243, Charlotte, NC

- –KOKINA MAXIMUS 375, Samoa
- -TOMMY JAMMER 265, St. Joseph, MO 9—DOUG SOMERS
- 245, Minneapolis, MN 10—THE RUSSIAN BRUTE 285, Moscow, Russia

USWA

USWA Champion: JERRY LAWLER

234, Memphis, TN

- 1—KERRY VON ERICH 260, Denton, TX
- -JEFF JARRETT 200, Hendersonville, TN
- 3—BILLY TRAVIS
- 218, Houston, TX 4—ERIC EMBRY 225, Lexington, KY
- 5—KEVIN VON ERICH
- 235, Denton, TX 6-P.Y. CHU-HI
- 307, Jackson, TN -CHRIS ADAMS
- 228, Stratford, England 8—DUSTIN RHODES
- 254, Austin, TX 9—MATT BORNE
- 235, Portland, OR
- 10—GARY YOUNG 240, Houston, TX

OFFIGIAL RATINGS

Top 10 and Tag Team ratings are based on won-lost records for the past month, quality of opposition, and inherent skill of each wrestler or team. These ratings are compiled by the magazine's editorial board. Most Popular and Most Hated ratings are based on nationwide telephone and arena surveys of wrestling fans and on the volume and character of mail that comes to our offices. All other ratings are based on the official current positions of challengers to the top title in each category; certain titlehelders receive an automatic spot in the ratings.

MOST POPULAR

- **HULK HOGAN** 302, Venice Beach, CA Last month: No. 1 Most Popular
- RIC FLAIR 243, Minneapolis, MN Last month: No. 2 Most Popular
- 2 STING 260, Venice Beach, CA Last month: No. 5 Most Popular
- **RODDY PIPER** 231, Glasgow, Scotland Last month: No. 3 Most Popular
- THE ULTIMATE WARRIOR 280, Queens, NY Last month: No. 4 Most Popular
- BRUTUS BEEFCAKE 273, San Francisco, CA Last month: No. 6 Most Popular
- **RICK STEINER** 248. Detroit. MI Last month: No. 7 Most Popular
- DUSTY RHODES 302, Austin, TX Last month: No. 8 Most Popular
- **ERIC EMBRY** 225, Lexington, KY Last month: unrated
- **BRIAN PILLMAN** 226, Cincinnati, OH Last month: No. 9 Most Popular

MOST HATED

- **LEX LUGER** 268, Chicago, IL Last month: No. 4 Most Hated
- **CURT HENNIG** 235, Minneapolis, MN Last month: No. 6 Most Hated
- RICK RUDE 246, Robbinsdale, MN Last month: No. 1 Most Hated
- THE GREAT MUTA 245, Tokyo, Japan Last month: No. 5 Most Hated
- **RANDY SAVAGE** 245, Sarasota, FL Last month: No. 3 Most Hated
- 343, Los Angeles, CA Last month: unrated
- JERRY LAWLER 234, Memphis, TN Last month: No. 8 Most Hated
- ANDRE THE GIANT 497, Grenoble, France Last month: No. 7 Most Hated
- LARRY ZBYSZKO 248, Pittsburgh, PA Last month: No. 9 Most Hated
- **DINO BRAVO** 256, Montreal, Quebec Last month: unrated

For period ended November 10, 1989

Cumulative ratings

These ratings are based on the past 10 issues of this magazine. We have examined our ratings for each of those issues-in our Top 10 and Tag Team categories only-and assigned each position a point value: 10 points for a number one rating, nine for a number-two ranking, and so on down to one point for a number-10 rating. The point values for all wrestlers in the past 10 issues have been compiled, allowing a maximum of 100 points. Each issue we'll present the top five finishers in each category. While our regular ratings reflect the past month, these cumulative ratings give an indication of wider trends in the sport.

SINGLES

1-HULK HOGAN	.93	points
2—LEX LUGER	.78	points
3-RIC FLAIR	.65	points
4-RANDY SAVAGE	.53	points
5—STING	.50	points

TAG TEAMS	
1—DEMOLITION92	points
2-THE ROAD WARRIORS83	points
3-TULLY BLANCHARD & ARN ANDERSON 46	points
4-JIM GARVIN & MICHAEL HAYES45	points
5—SAMOAN SWAT TEAM35	points

STAMPEDE

North American Champion: LARRY CAMERON 280, Chicago, IL

- 1-BRUCE HART 211, Calgary, Alberta
- 2-D.J. PETERSON 245, St. Joseph, MO
- 3—OWEN HART 223, Calgary, Alberta
- -GAMA SINGH 220. Karachi, Pakistan
- 5-JOHNNY SMITH 235. Manchester, England
- 6-ARCHANGEL 260, parts unknown
- 7—ANGEL OF DEATH 310, Los Angeles, CA
- 8-SKULL MASON 265, Atlantic City, NJ
- 9-SUMO HARA 223, Sapporo, Japan
- 10—STEVE DISALVO 290, Los Angeles, CA

CWA

CWA Champion: **BILL DUNDEE**

228, Manchester, England

- 1-DIRTY WHITE BOY 235, Bucksnort, TN
- 2-DUTCH MANTEL 224, Oil Trough, TX
- 3—THE SOULTAKER 340. Mt. Laurel, NJ
- 4—JERRY LAWLER 234, Memphis, TN
- 5-JEFF JARRETT 200, Hendersonville, TN
- -CHRIS CHAMPION 225, Tampa, FL
- 7—MIKE DAVIS 235, Tampa, FL
- 8-KING COBRA 240, Memphis, TN
- 9-MASTER OF PAIN 320, parts unknown
- 10-LOU FABIANO 287, New York, NY

ACW: ACW champion—Colt Steel; 1—Nelson Royal; 2—Ken Shamrock; 3-David Isley; 4-Mike Hart; 5-Sheinobi; 6-Tommy Seabolt; 7-Todd Champion; 8-Samoan Tai; 9-Len Wagner; 10-Brian Johnson.

CWF: Continental champion—Dennis Condrey; 1—Ron Starr; 2—Brad Armstrong: 3-Dixie Dynamite; 4-Adrian Street; 5-Brickhouse Brown; 6-Cactus Jack: 7-Robert Fuller: 8-The Beast; 9-Jimmy Golden; 10-Brian Lee.

FCW: FCW champion-Steve Keirn; 1-Ron Slinker; 2-Blackjack Mulligan; 3-Mike Graham; 4-Bugsy McGraw; 5-Brickhouse Brown; 6-Jumbo Beretta: 7-Bounty Hunter I: 8-Lou Perez: 9-Jim Backlund; 10-Bounty

ICW: ICW champion—Tony Atlas; 1—Joe Savoldi; 2—Vic Steamboat; 3— Kendall Windham; 4-Ken Patera; 5-Eric Sbracchia; 6-Mike Sharpe; 7-Tom Brandi; 8-The Iranian Butcher; 9-Tom Prichard; 10-Mr. Pogo.

PNW: PNW champion—Scotty the Body; 1—Rex King; 2—Bill Francis; 3-Al Madril; 4-Art Barr; 5-Jonathan Boyd; 6-Steve Doll; 7-The Grappler; 8-Carl Styles; 9-Col. DeBeers; 10-Johnathan Holliday.

WWC: wwc champion—Carlos Colon; 1—Invader I; 2—Manny Fernandez; 3-Miguel Perez Jr.; 4-TNT; 5-Super Medic; 6-Junkyard Dog; 7-Koko B. Ware; 8-Harley Race; 9-El Gran Mendoza; 10-Kareem Muhammad.

RATINGS ANALYSIS

Every month, this column will tell fans how we go about rating nearly 200 wrestlers in 18 different categories. It is a behind-the-scenes look at the most important—and respected—ratings system in the sport. This column is vital reading for all wrestling fans.

The Second 10. They're a notch below the elite, but still among the finest athletes in the sport. They're the wrestlers that just missed making our Top 10 ratings. Many of them hold, or are in contention for, championships and are major players in the sport. This month, for a change of pace, we present the second 10, expanding our Top 10 ratings to a Top 20. A brief analysis follows.

THE SECOND 10

11 RODDY PIPER

No. 4 contender: WWF title

12 LARRY CAMERON

Stampede North American champion

13 DINO BRAVO

No. 3 contender: WWF title

14 BILL DUNDEE

CWA champion
15 SCOTTY THE BODY

PNW champion

16 CARLOS COLON WWC Universal champion

17 BRUCE HART
British Commonwealth champion

18 TONY ATLAS

19 STEVE KEIRN PWF Florida champion

20 SGT. SLAUGHTER No. 1 contender: AWA title

Analysis: Roddy Piper is dominating former Intercontinental champion Rick Rude. Since Piper always has the potential to change his attitude—he's currently a fan favorite—he must be considered a threat to World champion Hulk Hogan ... Larry Cameron has held the Stampede North American title since last April and recently sidelined Owen Hart ... Dino Bravo—a man who is particularly troublesome to Hogan—remains on the fringe of contenders and is waiting for another title shot ... Bill Dundee dominated USWA champion Jerry Lawler in a recent match; steady veteran ... Scotty the Body is having problems with his valets, but he's had no trouble defending the PNW title ... Carlos Colon recently regained the WWC Universal belt from Steve Strong; this Puerto Rican

legend is a true superstar ... Bruce Hart, an outstanding scientific wrestler, has withstood a vicious assault on the British Commonwealth title ... Tony Atlas won the ICW belt last February and has dominated all competition ... Steve Keirn is clearly the best wrestler in Florida ... Sgt. Slaughter is in line for several shots at AWA World champ Larry Zbyszko. The fact that he's the number-one contender and still rated so low is due in large part to Zbyszko's infrequent defenses.

Tracking Trends. In last month's Tag Team ratings, Michael Hayes and Jim Garvin were number two and NWA World tag team champions. Since then, they've lost the title to Rick and Scott Steiner and have dropped out of the Top 10, although they're still in the federation. How did this happen? Well, after the Steiners won the belts, Doom emerged as the top contenders for the belts. The Skyscrapers also moved into position. The Road Warriors are Top 10 perennials. Most importantly, title rematches haven't been forthcoming for The Freebirds, who recently were beaten by Ole and Arn Anderson.

More big changes in the Tag Team ratings, where the Steiners enter at number one off a series of dominating victories over Doom. Demolition drops to number two after suffering losses to Andre the Giant and Haku (enter the ratings at number eight). The Midnight Express are rulebreakers again and move up three spots to number three. Meanwhile, with fan favorites as champions, The Road Warriors are less likely to receive title shots. They drop a notch to number five; they also have worked less as a team over the past few weeks, mostly because The Skyscrapers are teaming less. Doom moves in at number four, although they're the number-one contenders. The ratings committee judged that Doom doesn't have the inherent skill to warrant a higher rating ... Tully Blanchard and Arn Anderson were fired by manager Bobby Heenan and left the WWF. Anderson showed up in the NWA with Ole Anderson and enters the ratings at number

That does it. Next month, numbers 11-20 for the Tag Team ratings and more Tracking Trends. Meanwhile, we're still reading your mail. The address is: "Ratings Analysis," clo Sports Review Wrestling; Box 48; Rockville Centre, NY 11571.

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